Newton Free Library.

1866 - 1876.

Accession 2203.31
PRESENTED TO THE
193.580
Public Library of the City of Boston
BOSTONIA
CONDITA AD
1630
By Newton Free Library
Received Feb. 25, 1876 No.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

A

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

OF THE

ORIGIN AND GROWTH

OF THE

Newton Free Library,

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS NOV. 24, 1875,

AND

SUBMITTED TO THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT CHOSEN TO CONFER WITH THE MANAGERS OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY REGARDING THE GIFT OF THE LIBRARY TO THE CITY OF NEWTON.

BY THE

COMMITTEE CHOSEN BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS TO CONFER WITH THE CITY GOVERNMENT THEREON.

Committee of the City Government.

His Honor Mayor J. F. C. HYDE.
Alderman OTIS PETTEE.
President of Common Council, GEORGE E. ALLEN.
Councilman A. S. WEED.
Councilman JOHN WARD.

Committee of the Library Corporation.

Hon. J. WILEY EDMANDS.
JOHN S. FARLOW.
EDMUND W. CONVERSE.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL,
39 ARCH STREET.
1876.

193,580
The Newton Free Library,
Feb. 25/76

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

The corporation chartered in 1871 by the name of the Newton Free Library [Laws of 1871, Chap. 134] originated in that part of Newton called Newton Corner, during the early summer of 1866. Prior to that time there had existed for several years at that place a Library Association, originally only a book club, but organized in January, 1849, as a circulating library. This association had collected a Library which in 1870 amounted to 1,750 volumes. In 1866 a subscription paper was circulated for the purpose of purchasing the lot of land, containing 20,500 square feet, upon which the present Library building stands, by the terms of which the subscribers agreed to pay to such trustee, or trustees, as should be selected, the sums of money subscribed, upon condition that the lot of land should be offered as a gift to the Newton Library Association above mentioned, and that said Association should, within five years, erect thereon a brick or stone building costing not less than ten thousand dollars, and at least two stories in height, suitable for the purposes of a free Public Library and Reading Room. This subscription amounted to $3,320.00.

On the 20th of September, 1866, the subscribers to this paper, mentioned above, met, organized, and chose a Board of Trustees. The meeting empowered the trustees to collect the amounts subscribed to the fund, to have the property transferred to them, to receive the deeds of the same, and to hold the property for the proprietors, for the use and purposes of the subscribers, as set forth in said subscription paper. It was also voted "that the trustees take the initia-

tive in any measure that will promote the interests of a free Public Library in this place, and in the erection of a suitable building on the land purchased by the subscribers to the fund." In accordance with the authority thus given them, the trustees collected the subscriptions, and received the title to the land. In 1867 the trustees reported to the subscribers their action, and the condition of the enterprise, which was unanimously endorsed by vote of the subscribers.

It was also voted "that the trustees have full powers to treat with any existing Library Association at Newton Corner for the receiving of the gift of the land from the subscribers, on the condition in the indenture expressed; or to initiate proceedings by calling public meetings, procuring subscriptions, or otherwise, for the formation of a new Library Association to receive said gifts on said conditions; to receive in trust, if they deem it best, any transfer of stock or property from any existing Library Association; to procure any legislation they may think necessary, or take any other action they may judge will best carry out the purposes of the subscribers; and that they report their action in the premises to the subscribers at a meeting to be called by them at such time as they may deem most expedient for the enterprise." Under the ample powers thus conferred upon the trustees, they commenced their labors. In January, 1868, they reported to the subscribers the gift of $15,000.00 towards the establishment of a free Public Library, — the liberality of a citizen of the town* upon certain conditions. It was voted to proceed with the erection of a stone library building upon the lot of land secured; that when completed it shall be organized under the name of the Newton Free Library with a board of control, of eleven managers, and that all contributors of ten dollars and upwards shall have a right to vote. In accordance with a vote of the subscribers, at a meeting held April 1, 1867, the trustees made a ten-

* Hon. J. Wiley Edmands.

der of the land, under certain conditions, to the Newton Library Association, above referred to. This association was compelled to decline the gift, and at a meeting held January 6th, 1868, voted, "that this Association will transfer all its books, and other property, to the trustees of the Library Land Fund when any association shall accept of the land named in the communication of the trustees, and guarantee to erect such a building as is therein mentioned, to be held by said trustees until the completion of the said building, when they shall transfer the same to the new Association; provided it shall be maintained as a Free Library and located in that part of this town called Newton Corner." The subscribers at the meeting last named voted "that the trustees be empowered to raise fifteen thousand dollars in addition to a gift of a like sum, to proceed to erect such a building as shall be, in their judgment, in accordance with the permanent and effective establishment of such an institution; that when they have obtained the full amount of thirty thousand dollars, the trustees be authorized to convey the land to an association to be called the Newton Free Library." It was also voted, "that the trustees procure an Act of Incorporation."

By energetic and persistent effort, public meetings, courses of lectures, and private labor, the sum of $36,683.00 was obtained, and in June, 1868, the present library building was commenced. The building was dedicated June 17, 1870, when the subscriptions had reached the sum of $53,390.77. The Newton Library Association delivered its property to the trustees and managers, in compliance with its vote of January 6, 1868, and the same was received by the Newton Free Library in accordance therewith. The Newton Centre Library Association, organized in 1859, deemed it advisable to merge its Library with the one at Newton Corner, and in June, 1873, gave its entire collection of books, numbering over 1,400 volumes to the Newton Free Library, and dissolved its Association. The value of

the property of the corporation at the present time may be fairly estimated at $70,000.00. A legacy of $5,000.00, by the will of the late David B. Jewett, to the Library is contingent on the death of an aged lady. At the present time the Library has 11,003 volumes, a reading-room, and a valuable collection of specimens of natural history. The growth of the Library has been steady and continuous.

In 1873, 41,249 volumes were taken out.
" 1874, 47,642 " " " "
" 1875, 57,249 " " " "

Although the Library was established almost entirely by the gifts of those residing at Newton Corner, the endeavor of the corporation and its managers had been to make it useful and accessible to all the inhabitants of the town and city of Newton, and to make it what its corporate name indicates, — the Newton Free Library. To bring the advantages of the Library within the reach of the inhabitants of the entire municipality, agencies for the delivery of books have been established at Newton Upper Falls, Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, Auburndale, West Newton, and Newtonville. During the past year the whole number of cards issued was 999, divided as follows: Newton Corner, 282; Newtonville, 130; West Newton, 32; Newton Centre, 141; Newton Highlands, 108; Auburndale, 188; Newton Upper Falls, 74; Newton Lower Falls, 5; North Village, 26. Thus it will be seen that the advantages of the Library under its present management are not confined to any one locality, but that they are secured to every portion of the city. The remarks of the Mayor of the city, addressed to the present City Government at their first meeting in January last, called the attention of the managers of the Library to the importance of the suggestion therein made, and after careful consideration of the subject, not only by the managers, but

by all members of the corporation, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted Nov. 3, 1875.

Resolved, That the proposition to place the Library under the control and management of the city is approved and accepted.

Resolved, That the managers are hereby empowered to make a transfer of the franchise and property of the Newton Free Library to the City of Newton, on the city's assuming the conditions of trust of its present organization under the Act of Incorporation.

Signed, J. WILEY EDMANDS.
JOHN S. FARLOW.
E. W. CONVERSE.

NEWTON, Nov. 22, 1875.

The proposition was cordially received by both branches of the City Government, and a joint committee was appointed to meet the above committee of the Board of Managers.

At the first meeting of the two committees a formal tender of the Library property was made, and the above statement of the history of the Library was submitted. After a few consultations the committee on the part of the City made a unanimous report, recommending the acceptance of the gift by the City Government. This report was adopted by the Board of Aldermen Dec. 20, with but one dissenting vote (the dissenting member objecting to the order before them, without an amendment, but not opposed to the City's acceptance of the Library), and by the Common Council Dec. 22, by a unanimous vote. The passage of an Act of the Legislature alone remains to enable both parties to complete the transfer.

The following statement, compiled from the subscription book of the Newton Free Library, shows the number of

contributors and the amounts paid from June, 1866, to Jan. 1st, 1876.

In case of several subscriptions by one individual, the full amount is entered, with the exception of subscriptions to the Land Fund, which is given in full: —

By one person			$17,000 00
" one "			6,500 00
" two "	$2,500	each	5,000 00
" two "	$2,000	"	4,000 00
" one "			1,600 00
" one "			1,500 00
" four "	$1,250	each	5,000 00
" one "			1,100 00
" one "			1,000 00
" one "			800 00
" one "			750 00
" one "			700 00
" four "	$500	each	2,000 00
" three "	$400	"	1,200 00
" one "			375 00
" one "			350 00
" one "			300 00
" five "	$250	each	1,250 00
" seven "	$200	"	1,400 00
" five "	$150	"	750 00
" two "	$125	"	250 00
" thirty "	$100	"	3,000 00
" three "	$75	"	225 00
" thirty-six persons	$50	each	1,800 00
" two persons	$30	each	60 00
" forty "	$25	"	1,000 00
" twelve "	$20	"	240 00
" four "	$15	"	60 00
" one hundred thirty-two persons	$10	each	1,320 00
" one person			5 00
Three hundred and five persons			$60,535 00
By proceeds from lectures and other sources			1,420 77
" sundry persons for purchase of land			3,320 00
Total			$65,275 77

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

INCLUDING THE REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES AT THE CEREMONY OF LAYING THE CORNER STONE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1868, AND AT THE DEDICATION, JUNE 17, 1870.

NEWTON, 1870.

BOSTON:
GEORGE L. KEYES, PRINTER, 4 WILLIAMS COURT,
1872.

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

ORGANIZED 1869.

MANAGERS, 1870-1.

GEORGE H. JONES,	.	.	Term expires	October,	1874.
JOHN C. CHAFFIN,	.	.	"	"	"	"
ISAAC T. BURR,	.	.	"	"	"	"
J. WILEY EDMANDS,	.	.	"	"	"	1873.
GEORGE W. BACON,	.	.	"	"	"	"
JOHN S. FARLOW,	.	.	"	"	"	1872.
ADIN B. UNDERWOOD,	.		"	"	"	"
JOEL H. HILLS,	.	.	.	"	"	"	1871.
GEORGE S. BULLENS,	.	.	"	"	"	"
GEORGE C. LORD,	.	.	"	"	"	1875.
NATHAN P. COBURN,	.	.	"	"	"	"

The last two were chosen in place of George S. Harwood and Abner I. Benyon, whose term of office expired October, 1870.

ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 1870-1.

Chairman.

GEORGE H. JONES.

Secretary.

GEORGE S. BULLENS.

Treasurer.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN.

Committee on Library.

GEORGE W. BACON, GEORGE C. LORD,
ADIN B. UNDERWOOD, JOHN S. FARLOW,
GEORGE H. JONES.

Committee on Finance.

JOEL H. HILLS, ISAAC T. BURR,
NATHAN P. COBURN.

Committee on Library Building.

GEORGE H. JONES, J. WILEY EDMANDS,
JOHN C. CHAFFIN.

Superintendent.

GEORGE W. BACON.

Assistant Librarians.

MISS HANNAH P. JAMES, MISS CORNELIA W. JACKSON.

REPORT

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY, AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1868.

Geo. H. Jones, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, read a history of the proceedings connected with the enterprise as follows: —

Ladies and Gentlemen, — We are convened to lay the corner stone of the Newton Free Library.

Seldom has an enterprise received such prompt, generous, and united support as the one which to-day receives its first public recognition.

Truly may it be said that, for the erection of this structure, "the people have had a mind to work."

In noting the successive events which constitute the history of the institution to the present day, we give no prominence to individual generosity only so far as noble acts and gifts incite emulation and ensure success.

Posterity will do full justice to all individual and collective acts which have made possible the erection and perpetuation of this Library.

While the Trustees have experienced but few of the usual discouragements in accomplishing the desires of those gentlemen who honored them by so important a trust, they have found, in the free and hearty coöperation of the entire community, those guarantees of final success which have made their labor a pleasure; and they

trust with confidence to the same generous forbearance while they carry forward to completion this building.

For many years prior to the present, the growth of our village and the town had made more and more apparent to those who were watchful of the future, the importance of securing such educational facilities as every populous and thriving community requires. Prominent in this work was the "Newton Library Association," originally only a book club, but organized in January, 1849, as a circulating library, and now containing 1,750 volumes. This institution has ever been a power in our community; and, watchful of the progress of intellectual improvement, it has, from time to time, made successful efforts to improve and enlarge our library facilities.

Within a few years much interest has been awakened in the community with regard to Free Libraries, and many of our citizens have expressed an earnest desire for the establishment of such an institution in this place.

Prominent in this regard, an association of gentlemen, under the name of the "Newton *Literary* Association," has given the subject earnest attention, and made repeated efforts to awaken and increase the interest and give direction to efforts for the accomplishment of the object.

No definite action was, however, begun until June, 1866, when Mr. Joel H. Hills obtained a subscription of thirty three hundred dollars, with which to purchase a lot of land on Centre street, to be offered as a gift to the *Newton Library Association*, on which to erect a suitable building for library purposes, and, if declined by that Association, to offer the same to any other organiza-

tion which would guarantee the erection of such a building.

The following is a copy of the subscription, with the name of each subscriber, and the amount paid by each: —

NEWTON CORNER, June 28, 1866.

We, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of purchasing a lot of land containing about 20,500 feet, situated on Centre street, between the estates occupied by Rev. J. W. Wellman and Mrs. Louisa S. Brown, now owned by Capt. Wm. Thomas, and bonded by him to E. W. Dennison, Esq.; and we hereby mutually agree to pay, on demand, the sum of two hundred and twenty dollars ($220) each, to such Trustees or Treasurer as may be selected by a vote of the members undersigned; the above amount being one-fifteenth of the whole sum to be subscribed, — thirty-three hundred dollars ($3,300),— by the following persons. And it is further agreed and understood by the undersigned that this lot of land is intended for and shall be offered as a gift to the Newton Library Association, or, in case the offer should be declined, to any other association as the majority of the subscribers may decide, upon the following conditions: —

That said Association shall, within five (5) years, erect thereon a brick or stone building, costing not less than ten thousand dollars, and at least two stories in height, suitable for the purposes of a Free Public Library and Reading Room.

Should the conditions, as above, be not complied with at the expiration of the five years, said land is to be conveyed (as per agreement,) to E. W. Dennison, should he so elect, on his paying our Treasurer or Trustees the cost of the same and interest thereon. If not taken by him, said land to be disposed of, and in either case the proceeds to be divided *pro rata* among the subscribers or their heirs or assignees.

D. R. Emerson, ...	$220 00
J. C. Chaffin, ...	220 00
Albert Brackett, ...	220 00
Joel H. Hills, ...	220 00
Joseph N. Bacon, ...	220 00
Fred. Davis, ...	220 00

George H. Jones,	220 00
Wm. O. Edmands,	220 00
H. D. Bassett,	220 00
J. W. Wellman,	220 00
I. T. Burr,	220 00
Frank Skinner,	500 00
G. D. Gilman,	100 00
Louisa S. Brown,	100 00
A. B. Underwood,	100 00
Aaron F. Gay,	50 00
Jas. French,	50 00

On the 20th of September, 1866, a meeting of the contributors was called and held at the house of Joseph N. Bacon, Esq. The following is the official record of the meeting: —

Newton Corner, September 20, 1866.

At a meeting of the subscribers to a fund for the purchasing of a lot of land situated in this village, and known as the Captain Thomas lot, held at the house of Joseph N. Bacon, Geo. H. Jones was chosen Chairman, and G. D. Gilman, Secretary.

The Chairman read the heading of the subscription paper as the basis for the calling of the meeting, and as explanatory of the object thereof.

On motion it was voted that three Trustees be chosen to transact all necessary business for and pertaining to the interests of the subscribers, in the matter of the land, as described.

On motion, voted that Messrs. J. H. Hills and Joseph N. Bacon be appointed a committee to report a ticket for the choice of Trustees.

On motion, it was voted to proceed to ballot for Trustees, and on counting the votes it was found that the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen, viz: Geo. H. Jones, John C. Chaffin, and Isaac T. Burr.

On motion, it was voted that in case of a vacancy occurring in the Board of Trustees they shall call a meeting of the proprietors to fill said vacancy.

On motion, it was voted that the Trustees have power to call a meeting of the proprietors whenever they may deem the same necessary.

On motion it was voted that the Trustees are empowered to collect the amounts subscribed to the fund, giving receipts for the same; to

have the transfer of the property made to them; to receive the deeds of the same, and to have and hold the property for the proprietors for the use and purposes of the subscribers as set forth in the subscription paper.

On motion, voted that the Trustees be requested to take the initiative in any measure that will promote the interests of a "Free Public Library" in this place, and in the erection of a suitable building on the land purchased by the subscribers to the fund.

Signed. A true copy. Attest:

GEO. H. JONES, *Chairman.*

G. D. GILMAN, *Secretary.*

In accordance with these votes the Trustees, having organized by the choice of Geo. H. Jones, Chairman, and Geo. S. Bullens, Secretary, made the collection and received the title of the land, and executed all such other papers as were requisite to satisfy E. W. Dennison, Esq., of whom the land was purchased, and also to secure the interest of the subscribers if the land should not be used for the purposes set forth.

The Trustees also exerted such influence as they possessed to secure the success of the enterprise, in accordance with the instructions of the subscribers.

April 1, 1867, the Trustees called a meeting of the subscribers, and reported their action and the present condition of the enterprise.

The subject was fully discussed by the subscribers and others present; and the doings of the Trustees, and their suggestions in the report, having been unqualifiedly endorsed by the subscribers, the Rev. J. W. Wellman offered the following vote, which was unanimously adopted: —

Voted, That the meeting approve of the action of the Trustees thus far, and of the suggestions made in their report of their proposed future action.

After further discussion in regard to other points suggested, and in order that the Trustees should have full power to act in the premises to carry out their proposed plans, the following vote was offered by Gen. A. B. Underwood, and unanimously adopted: —

Voted, That the Trustees have full power to treat with any existing library association at Newton Corner for the receiving of the gift of the land from the subscribers, on the condition in the indenture expressed; or to initiate proceedings by calling public meetings, procuring subscriptions, or otherwise, for the formation of a new library association to receive said gifts on said conditions; to receive in trust, if they deem it best, any transfer of stock or property from any existing library association; procure any legislation they may think necessary, or take any other action they may judge will best carry out the purposes of the subscribers; and that they report their acts in the premises to the subscribers, at a meeting to be called by them at such time as they may deem most expedient for the enterprise.

Signed,

GEO. S. BULLENS, *Secretary.*

In obedience to these instructions the Trustees continued to press upon the attention of the community the urgent wants of the present Library, and the great anxiety of the entire community for a Free Library of high character.

January 7, 1868, so much encouragement had been given the Trustees that they were able to report to a meeting of the subscribers to the land fund, in favor of opening a general subscription. The following is the official record of the meeting: —

A meeting of the subscribers to the Library Land Fund was called by the Trustees, and was held at the house of Geo. H. Jones, on Thursday evening, January 7, 1868, to hear a report from said Trustees of their action since the last meeting of the subscribers.

The subscribers present were as follows: —

Joseph N. Bacon,	D. R. Emerson,
Isaac T. Burr,	Joel H. Hills,
H. D. Bassett,	Wm. O. Edmands,
John C. Chaffin,	James French,
Geo. H. Jones,	Frederick Davis.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees reported that since our meeting held last April, but little apparent progress has been made towards the accomplishments of our object; the Trustees have, however, had the subject of a Free Public Library constantly in mind, and have now the satisfaction to state that Hon. J. Wiley Edmands offers to contribute $15,000 towards the establishment of a Free Public Library under the following conditions: —

First, That a like sum of $15,000 shall be fully secured by the Trustees previous to the first day of March next.

Second, That a building shall be erected under the general supervision of the present Trustees or their successors in office, and in accordance with plans which shall be satisfactory to him.

Third, That when completed it shall be organized under the name of the "Newton Free Library," with a board of control consisting of eleven managers, three of whom shall be the present Board of Trustees or their successors, the remaining number to be elected from the contributors to the before-specified amount.

Fourth, That all contributors of ten dollars and upwards shall have a right to vote.

Fifth, That these conditions shall be fully entered in the subscription book.

After several interviews with Mr. Edmands in regard to the conditions on which he offers to contribute the munificent sum of $15,000, the Trustees have adopted for themselves a form of subscription which embodies said conditions, and which will be satisfactory to him. The Chairman then read the proposed heading of the subscription book copied in records of November 21, 1867, and which form was then unanimously adopted by the subscribers.

The Chairman also reported that in accordance with a vote of the subscribers, passed at a meeting held by them April 1, 1867, the Trustees had made a tender of the land, under certain conditions, to the "Newton Library Association" as follows: —

To the Newton Library Association: —

In accordance with the instructions of the subscribers to the Library Fund we, the Trustees thereof, hereby tender to you the lot of land situated on Centre street, between the estates now owned and occupied respectively by Mrs. Louisa S. Brown and Rev. J. W. Wellman, as a site for a library building, on the following conditions, viz.:

The Building to be of brick or stone, two stories high.

The Building to be completed on or before June 28, 1871.

The Building to cost not less than ten thousand dollars ($10,000.)

If for any reason the "Newton Library Association" declines to accept this gift, and if some other association does accept it, and guarantees to erect such a building, will the "Newton Library Association" donate and transfer to the said Trustees all Books and other property belonging to the said Library Association, to be held in trust by them until the completion of the said building, and then to transfer the same to the new Association?

Your early action upon these questions is solicited.

Per order of the Trustees,

GEO. S. BULLENS, *Secretary.*

Newton, November 21, 1867.

—

Newton, January 6, 1868.

To the Trustees of the Newton Library Land Fund: —

I am directed to transmit to you the following votes, passed unanimously at the annual meeting of the Newton Library Association, held his evening. In reference to the communication from the Trustees of the Library Land Fund Association, dated November 21, 1867, on motion it was voted, that while the Association tender their thanks for the offer made in the communication presented, the Association is compelled to decline the gift.

Voted, That the Association will transfer all its books and other property to the Trustees of the Library Land Fund, when any As-

sociation shall accept of the lot of land named in the communication of the Trustees, and guarantee to erect such a building as is therein mentioned, to be held in trust by said Trustees until the completion of the said building, when they shall transfer the same to the new association, provided it shall be maintained as a Free Library, and be located in that part of this town now called Newton Corner.

(Signed,)

G. W. BACON,
Secretary Newton Library Association.

The following votes were then passed unanimously by the subscribers: —

Voted, That the Trustees be, and hereby are fully empowered and authorized to accept the offer of Hon. J. Wiley Edmands, on the conditions set forth in the proposed form of heading and subscription as reported by them to this meeting, and that they have full authority and power to solicit and collect such subscriptions; and when the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, over and above the like sum pledged by Mr. Edmands, is fully secured, to enter upon and erect such a building as shall be, in their judgment, in accordance with the permanent and effective establishment of such an institution, and the wishes of Mr. Edmands.

Voted, That if the Trustees succeed in obtaining the full amount of thirty thousand dollars in all, we hereby surrender all title and interest in the lot of land to the Trustees for the purposes as set forth in the indenture between the subscribers and Trustees, dated October 15, 1866, and authorize the Trustees to convey the same to an Association to be called the "Newton Free Library," and organized in conformity with the conditions as set forth in the subscription and the aforesaid indenture.

Voted, That the Trustees be authorized to secure, at such time as they may deem expedient, an act of incorporation or any other legislation, in order to the proper establishment of the institution.

Adjourned.

(Signed)

GEO. S. BULLENS, *Secretary.*

In pursuance of these votes the subscriptions were obtained and the success of the enterprise assured. The final and complete success was the result of a public meeting held at Elliot Hall, March 8, 1867, when the young men coöperated with the other efforts made, and by their energetic and effective action aided materially

the final result. A full report of this meeting was published in the Newton Journal.

The result of the effort of the young men, at and after this meeting, was a subscription of $1,500,

The following is the total subscription for the establishment of the Library: —

By sundry persons for purchase of land,			.	$3,320
" Hon. J. Wiley Edmands,			.	15,000
" seven persons	$1,000	each,	.	7,000
" six "	500	"	.	3,000
" one "	300	"	.	300
" seven "	250	"	.	1,750
" four "	200	"	.	800
" twenty "	100	"	.	2,000
" thirty-six "	50	"	.	1,800
" one "	30	"	.	30
" eighteen "	25	"	.	450
" six "	20	"	.	120
" five "	15	"	.	75
" eighty-eight persons	10	"	.	880
Proceeds of a course of lectures for 1867-8,				158
Total,			.	$36,683

The required amount having been secured, Mr. Edmands placed at the disposal of the Trustees the sum of $15,000, to be used *pro rata* with the like amount subscribed and paid. He also furnished, by A. R. Esty, Esq., Architect, plans for a building of which he approved, and which were adopted by the Trustees.

Ground was broken June 10, 1868, and the contracts made as follows: —

Split and cut stone for trimmings, etc., to Bodwell and Wilson, Hallowell, Maine.

Mason work, to Thomas Grahan, Cambridge, Mass.

Carpenter work, to Stephen Holmes, Newton.

The rough stone for the walls are from the quarry of Samuel H. Gooch, Esq., Newton Centre.

The following articles are to be deposited in the corner stone: —

Copy of the Town Report for 1868.

Copy of the School Report for 1868.

Copies of the Newton Journal, Boston papers of the day, the American Almanac, specimens of coins, bank notes and currency in use, the history of the "Newton Free Library," as furnished this day by the Trustees, and the several reports of public meetings, as published in the Newton Journal at sundry times. Also a copy of the Subscription Book, engrossed on parchment, giving the names and amounts subscribed.

MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBERS, SEPT. 29, 1869.

A meeting of the subscribers to the fund of the Newton Free Library was held on Wednesday evening, September 29, 1869, at the Library Building, to effect the permanent organization of the Board of Managers.

The meeting was called to order by Gen. H. Jones, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Jones was elected Chairman of the meeting, and Geo. S. Bullens, Secretary.

Mr. Jones read the call for the meeting, and made a report of the present condition of the enterprise, after which, on motion of Mr. J. H. Woodford, the following committee was nominated by the chair to report a list of eight Managers: J. H. Woodford, W. P. Tyler, G. H. Quincy, G. D. Gilman, and A. F. Thayer.

This Committee subsequently reported the following list: —

For Four Years—J. Wiley Edmands and Geo. W. Bacon.
For Three Years—John S. Farlow and A. B. Underwood.
For Two Years—Joel H. Hills and George S. Bullens.
For One Year—Geo. S. Harwood and Abner I. Benyon.

The list was taken up and each member unanimously elected, and with the original Trustees, Messrs. George H. Jones, John C. Chaffin, and Isaac T. Burr, made up the Board of Management.

On motion of Mr. J. N. Bacon, the Board of Managers was directed to prepare a code of By-Laws for the management of the affairs of the Association, for the consideration of the subscribers at some future meeting.

The meeting then dissolved.

REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES AND BOARD OF MANAGERS, AT THE DEDICATION OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY BUILDING, ON FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1870.

The Trustees deem it inexpedient to give in detail the entire history of the Newton Free Library, on this occasion, inasmuch as all which transpired prior to laying the corner stone on the 13th day of August, 1868, is now upon our records.

The several contractors therein enumerated have discharged their obligations satisfactorily to the Trustees and creditably to themselves.

The various artisans and mechanics who have finished the parts not included in the building contracts, have manifested a constant desire and ability to meet all the requirements of the Trustees.

We should fail to comply with our estimate of the Architect, A. R. Esty, Esq., and of Mr. Hurd, his assistant, and also of the personal courtesy of each of them, during all the progress of the work, did we not acknowledge that our experience and intercourse with them has been in the highest degree satisfactory and a pleasure.

We also desire to say that the principal contractors, Mr. Thomas Grahan for the stone work, and Mr. Stephen Holmes for the carpenter work, are entitled to our thanks for their constant endeavors to meet our wishes; and also that, in our judgment, they have dis-

played a degree of skill as builders which entitles them to high commendation.

It has also been a pleasure to the Trustees that the workmen have, especially on all the interior finish, manifested an appreciation of the general interest and taste for perfect workmanship, and thus established a reputation for themselves second to no other mechanics.

While we thus refer to the more prominent parts, we wish to give the same general credit to all who have been employed on the various portions of the work, and to say that in no instance have we had occasion to regret the selection of the workmen employed.

The Trustees desire to extend their thanks to all and every person with whom they have had business transactions with reference to the work now completed; and also to say that in every instance they have met only one apparent desire, and that has been to do all things possible for the good of the Institution and the convenience of the Trustees.

Our expenditures have, as is usual in such cases, exceeded our estimates. This, however, has not caused us embarrassment, as the friends of the Library have responded to our calls with prompt generosity, and given us on each of our general subscriptions more than we asked for.

We also take pleasure in saying that individual generosity has been as conspicuous in meeting our last subscription as the first; and while the same credit is due to those who have given small sums, according to their ability, as to those who have subscribed more largely, it is with satisfaction that we acknowledge the obligation the community is under to John C. Chaffin, Esq., for the

gift of $4,000 in addition to other liberal subscriptions.

The financial condition of the library is as follows:

Subscription for the land purchased,	$3,320 00
First general subscription,	29,515 77
Second general subscription,	15,555 00
Subscription for annual increase of the Library for five years, $1,000 per annum,	5,000 00
Making a total subscription received of	$53,390 77

The disbursements have been—

For land,	$3,300 00
For grading and finishing the same,	1,650 20
For the building and fixtures,	31,745 00
Making the total cost ready for use,	$36,695 20
For incidental expenses and library work,	2,239 26
There has been paid or now due for books,	4,823 64
And for papers and periodicals,	325 00
Cash on hand to balance subscriptions,	9,308 67
	$53,390 77

Of the cash balance there is for the annual increase of the Library, $3,000, not available until after the expiration of the year 1871; so that we are in funds for the expenses and support of the library for the remainder of 1870 and for 1871, to the amount of $6,307.67, which it is desirable to increase one or two thousand dollars within that time. Of the entire amount of our subscriptions we have failed of the collection of only one hundred and fifty dollars.

Upon the Board of Managers, elected in accordance with the conditions of the first general subscription, has

devolved the duty of establishing the Library and Reading Room, and this work is nearly complete.

After a few days for preliminary work the public will, we trust, be served with books from the Library. The Reading Room is now open for use.

The whole number of volumes now in the Library is, ...	6,534
And there are purchased but not received, .	750
Making the total number, ...	7,284
Of these there have been given by the Newton Library Association, . . .	1,620
Donations from individuals, . . .	1,242
The American purchases are, . . .	2,155
And the foreign, ...	2,267
The average cost per volume of the American purchase is, ...	$1 30
And of the foreign about, ...	80

There have been donations from various persons of engravings, charts, maps, pamphlets and records, for all which the Superintendent of the Library has made or will make acknowledgement, and for which the managers, in behalf of the Association, desire to express thanks, as well as for the valuable books which have been so freely given.

Neither the Trustees nor the Managers deem a more extended report necessary than has now been made, believing that this, together with the one made on the occasion of laying the corner stone, together with the full record which has been made by our Secretary, constitutes a full history of the Newton Free Library to this date.

It is due to the Superintendent and his assistants to say that, since their appointment, every effort possible on their part has been made to secure an early opening of the Library, and the Managers believe the method of

management will, when fully developed, satisfy the public.

We have endeavored to avail ourselves of the advice of experienced librarians and experts, and are confident that our system will be quite as perfect as that of any similar library in the country.

The managers have been gratified by knowing that our building generally commends itself to favorable criticism, while our library hall has been, so far as we know, universally admired for its proportions, finish, and convenience.

If the alcove arrangement has not economised space as closely as some, it may be stated that it is susceptible of further re-arrangement, whenever necessary, and that there can be shelving added until 30,000 volumes are provided for without detriment to the present style and beauty.

In conclusion the Managers beg to say that all our hope, expectation, and confidence, in the future of this Free Library, is as assured as has always been our experience that whatever gives promise of intellectual, moral, and Christian advancement to the community, is sure to receive encouragement and support from the citizens of this town; and we confidently expect and believe that as the future necessities of the institution become apparent, and even in advance of that time, ample provision will be made for the perpetuation of its advantages.

[SUMMARY STATEMENT.]

Dr. Newton Free Library in Account with John C. Chaffin, Treasurer. Cr.

1870.				1866.			
Oct. 3.	To Payments on Land Account including Fencing, Filling, Grading, &c.,		$5,182 23	Oct. 1.	By Amount subscribed for Library Lot,		$3,320 00
"	" " Building Account, including interior finish,		30,072 47	1869.			
"	" " Insurance Account,		425 00	Feb. 23.	" " received from Hon. J. Wiley Edmands,		10,000 00
"	" " Furniture and Fixture Account,		1,309 49		" " of first general subscription,		18,353 00
"	" " Expense Account, including Printing, Advertising, Fuel, Lighting, Blank Books, Book Covers, &c.,		1,247 49		" " of Interest received to Oct. 27, 1869,		1,162 77
"	" " Salary and Extra Service Account:						$32,835 77
	For services of Janitor to Oct. 1st,		264 01	1870.			
	For services of Miss Hannah P. James, Asst. Librarian,		304 45	July.	" " of Second general Subscription,		15,570 00
	For services of Cornelia W. Jackson, Asst. Librarian,		299 97	"	" " received from Hon. J. Wiley Edmands (first installment towards his Special Gift of $5,000),		1,000 00
	For services of Wm. F. Poole of Boston Athenæum,		300 00	" 7.	" " received of C. H. Stone for Granite		5 00
	For services of sundry other persons,		317 55		" " " for Books sold to Oct. 1,		33 53
To Payments on Book Account,			4,194 99		" " " for Fines collected "		45 61
"	" " Reading Room Ac't, for Newspapers and Periodicals,		168 45		" " " for Interest to Sept. 10, 1870,		145 84
"	Balance of Cash on hand,		5,567 65				
			$49,635 75				$49,635 75
				1870.			
				Oct. 3.	By Balance of Cash on hand		$5,567 65

NEWTON, October 3, 1870.

Errors excepted, JOHN C. CHAFFIN, *Treasurer.*

Having examined the above account we find it correct, the receipts and payments being accounted for by proper vouchers.

(Signed,) JOEL H. HILLS, G. W. BACON, I. T. BURR. } *Finance Committee.*

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MANAGERS OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY, FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1870.

GENTLEMEN,—The Newton Free Library has now had an organized existence for one year, and it has become the duty of the Managers to present their first annual report.

Nine months of the year elapsed before the dedicatory exercises were held, so that the working of the institution has only had the experience and trial of three months. This time would be too short for a decision of any questionable point, if any such had arisen; but the Managers are not aware that this short time has developed any weakness of organization or inadequate rule or regulation for the convenient and proper management of the Library or Reading Room. In the organization of the Library the Managers departed from the common usage, and instead of appointing a Librarian, at a large salary, with assistants to do the work for small pay, appointed a Superintendent of the Library, who was to devote so much time as the necessities of the Institution required, while the position and duties of a Librarian were assigned to two ladies, at such compensation as seemed proper and right. This plan has, thus far, worked to the entire satisfaction of the Managers, and, so far as known, to the public. So satisfactory a result could only have

been obtained by the concurrence of fitness in a remarkable degree, of those who were selected for these responsible trusts. The report of the Superintendent sufficiently proves his fitness for the discharge of the duties of his position, and *his* commendation of the Assistant Librarians sufficiently supplements the estimate of the Managers and the public, as to the neatness, care, and efficiency manifested by them in all the discharge of their duties.

The Financial Exhibit and Report made by the Treasurer, shows, we think, that that part of our management is in proper hands. Our financial condition is as good as we have had reason to expect. Our expenditure has been large, but while the work of establishing the Library has been in progress, the increase of the population and material wealth of the town has been very great, and the Managers have scarcely kept pace with these conditions by any increase of expenditure beyond the original estimates. Beyond such topics as may be suggested by the report of the Superintendent and of the Treasurer, the Managers have no suggestions to make as to our future requirements.

It is proper, however, to call attention to the fact that, at the expiration of the year commencing October 1st, our present funds for current expenses will be exhausted, and it will then devolve upon the friends of public education and good citizenship to provide for the future care, growth, and usefulness of the Library. For the attainment of this end it is desirable that whatever may tend to render the Institution an object of high regard to all the citizens of the town, and make it as

cosmopolitan as in the nature of the case is possible and expedient, should meet the aid and coöperation of all its friends. This has been, and will no doubt continue to be, the aim and end of the Board of Managers.

By a proper condition of our organization two members of the Board of Managers are now to retire, and the vacancies are to be filled by new members. The personal relations of the members have been, during the year, of so kindly a nature, and all the actions of the Board so entirely unanimous, that the members all regret the necessity of the rule. The estimation in which these gentlemen are held by the remaining members of the Board will ensure a desire that, at some future day, they may again be associated with them in the performance of the same or similar duties.

The Managers are under obligation to the patrons of the Library for the patient consideration which has been extended to them, while they have so far exceeded the time thought requisite for the entire completion of the work entrusted to them; and also for that gratifying appreciation of the labors and difficulties always incident to the discharge of such trusts, which has secured them against criticisms which might have justly been made upon much of their action.

REPORT

OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY, OCTOBER 4, 1870,

To the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library,—Having been appointed by you to superintend the affairs connected with the immediate working of our Library, I herewith present a few statistics, marking its progress to the present time.

Your Superintendent entered upon his duties in December last, at which time two Assistant Librarians were appointed by the Board, and the work of preparation for opening the Library to the public was immediately commenced upon.

Before purchasing any books, it was found that the Library, from the donation of the Newton Library Association, had received 1,620 volumes; and by donations of individuals, over 500 volumes.

In making up lists for the purchase of books it was deemed best to employ an expert to assist in the selection of such works as would be most desirable for our Library, and accordingly an engagement was made with Mr. William F. Poole, formerly Librarian of the Boston Athenæum, whose sole profession is the organizing and arranging of public libraries, to prepare a list of books for purchase, subject to the revision of the Library Committee.

This list, prepared by Mr. Poole and revised by the Committee, contained many books which could be ob-

tained, by purchasing them in Europe, much cheaper than in this country, principally from the fact that all books imported for the use of public libraries are entered free of duties. About 2,200 volumes were ordered, therefore, from London and Leipzig, of which nearly 1,700 have been received, and the balance are now on their way.

Some discrepancy exists in the number of volumes ordered and the books received, which is accounted for by the fact that many of the works purchased abroad were in paper covers and were afterwards bound, quite a number of the two-volume works being put in one, and some of the four-volume sets in two. This reduced the number of books, but was a saving to the Library in funds, and is a greater convenience to the reader.

Our Accession Catalogue shows that there are now on our shelves 6,900 books, the accessions having been

From purchases, ...	3,866
" individual donations, ...	1,414
" Newton Library Association, . .	1,620

The amount expended for books has been about $5,000, and the value of our whole collection, including the donations, cannot be less than $9,000.

A card catalogue of all our books has been made, arranged under the heads of authors and subject, which cannot but prove a great assistance to the Librarians as a key to the contents of the Library.

The preparations for opening the Library consumed more time than had been anticipated, but still the work was hastened to completion as rapidly as a proper regard to the systematic arrangement of the various matters connected with our method of working the Library would allow.

It has not been deemed advisable to have a catalogue printed till all the books now ordered are received; and as a temporary substitute, a bulletin, containing a full list of the books, under the head of authors, has been posted in the Library Room, which has well served the purposes for which it was intended.

A full, printed catalogue will be published as soon as practicable, and, it is believed that when this important addition to our present library facilities is made, a large increase in our circulation will be immediately apparent.

It is certainly very gratifying to note a circulation of our books which has thus far greatly exceeded what could have reasonably been expected. Many libraries, with double the number of books we possess, have not attained to so large a circulation.

The record for the first month after the opening of the Library, July, shows that 3,290 volumes were loaned. In the month of August, 3 234, and during the last month 3,243, or at the rate of nearly 40,000 a year.

The largest number loaned in any single day, 250 : Sept. 24.
The smallest number loaned in any single day, 51 : Sept. 30.

Number of names registered, 1,360.

Of these persons who have registered their names, as applicants for books,

137	are	from	Newtonville.
79	"	"	Newton Centre.
33	"	"	West Newton.
19	"	"	Auburndale.
10	"	"	North Village.
7	"	"	Upper Falls.
5	"	"	Chestnut Hill.
2	"	"	Lower Falls.

6 are from Watertown—by subscription.
6 " " Brighton, " "
1,056 " " Newton.

Fifteen per cent. from the other villages.

Every village in town is represented.

Every Saturday our Librarians have found themselves taxed to the utmost of their abilities in answering the great demand for books, and it seems desirable that an additional attendant should be employed on that day of each week, as well for the relief of the Librarian as that the applicants for books may be more rapidly served.

The Superintendent takes this occasion to testify to that constant devotion to the best interests of the Library which has ever been manifested by the Assistant Librarians in all the duties of their positions, and also to especially commend the neatness and admirable order always observable within the Library Room.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. BACON, *Superintendent.*

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

NEWTON, MASS.

1871.

BOSTON:
PRINTED BY RAND, AVERY, & CO.
1872.

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

Organized 1869. Incorporated 1871.

MANAGERS, 1871-72.

GEORGE H. JONES	.	.	.	Term expires October,		1874.
JOHN C. CHAFFIN	.	.	.	"	"	"	"
ISAAC T. BURR	.	.	.	"	"	"	"
J. WILEY EDMANDS	.	.	.	"	"	"	1873.
FREDERICK DAVIS	.	.	.	"	"	"	"
JOHN S. FARLOW.	.	.	.	"	"	"	1872.
A. B. UNDERWOOD	.	.	.	"	"	"	"
GEORGE C. LORD .	.	.	.	"	"	"	1875.
NATHAN P. COBURN	.	.	.	"	"	"	"
FRANCIS M. JOHNSON	.	.		"	"	"	1876.
DAVID B. JEWETT	.	.	.	"	"	"	"

ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 1871-72.

Chairman.

GEORGE H. JONES.

Secretary.

FREDERICK DAVIS.

Treasurer.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN.

Committee on Library.

JOHN S. FARLOW. GEORGE C. LORD.
A. B. UNDERWOOD. ISAAC T. BURR.
DAVID B. JEWETT.

Committee on Finance.

NATHAN P. COBURN. FRANCIS M. JOHNSON.
FREDERICK DAVIS.

Committee on Building.

J. WILEY EDMANDS. GEORGE H. JONES.
JOHN C. CHAFFIN.

Librarian.

MISS HANNAH B. JAMES.

Assistant Librarian.

MISS CAROLINE B. JACKSON.

Janitor.

ALBERT A. DEMOND.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY, OCT. 3, 1871.

THE regular annual meeting of the subscribers to the NEWTON FREE LIBRARY was held at the Library Building, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 3, 1871.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board of Managers. GEORGE H. JONES was elected Chairman, and GEORGE C. LORD, Esq., Secretary.

The Treasurer, Mr. JOHN C. CHAFFIN, made his annual report, which was accepted. Mr. GEORGE H. JONES, Chairman of the Board of Managers, then read the annual report, which was accepted.

The meeting then proceeded to the choice of Managers, which resulted in the choice of Hon. F. M. JOHNSON and D. B. JEWETT, Esq., who were elected for five years, in place of Messrs. JOEL H. HILLS and GEORGE S. BULLENS, who retire.

Mr. FREDERICK DAVIS was elected to fill the unexpired term of the late GEORGE W. BACON.

On motion of Mr. G. D. GILMAN, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the retiring managers for their faithful services.

On motion of Mr. JOSEPH N. BACON, it was voted to accept the Act of Incorporation granted by the State.

Adjourned.

GEORGE C. LORD,

Secretary.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library, made to the Subscribers Oct. 3, 1871 :

Gentlemen, — The Board of Managers present to you to-night their second Annual Report; and it gives them much pleasure to say, that this period in our history has come to us under circumstances encouraging and satisfactory.

One event has occurred in this first year of our successful labor, which has brought to our hearts, in common with the entire community, sadness and grief. I refer to the death of our associate manager, George W. Bacon, who was also the Superintendent of the Library, which event occurred July 28th. No eulogy of this Board is necessary to intensify the deep sense of loss which is universally felt and acknowledged by reason of his death; but it is a privilege as well as duty to place upon our records a tribute to his worth and memory.

The early life of Mr. Bacon was marked by a love for books; and, as his years increased, he gave his leisure more and more to careful and extensive reading; and when, later in life, there came to him a true and full revelation of himself, and of his relations to his Maker and the world, a character was evolved which always results from knowledge, virtue, and Christianity.

These elements, supplemented by natural endowments of a high order, and a sincere desire for the good and happiness of others, gave to him a pre-eminence in the estimation of the entire community.

Mr. Bacon thus came to be regarded as a necessary ally to every good and important work in the secular and Christian improvements of the time in which he lived. His love for books naturally led to a connection with libraries. The "Newton Library Association" received from him much of its strength and usefulness; and as soon as Free Libraries began to be established, he, with his associates of the Library Association, often discussed the desirableness of establishing one in Newton. When, therefore, the present Free Library was proposed, he entered with characteristic interest and zeal into the labor necessary for its establishment. This zeal and interest never abated, and no more encouraging words or works, manifesting confidence of results, came to the trustees of the land purchase during the process of procuring funds and erecting the building than from him; and no one manifested more satisfaction at its completion and dedication; and when, in the progress of the enterprise, it became necessary for some one to devote much time and labor to organizing and developing an untried enterprise, no person could have been selected with more unanimity and confidence for the work than was Mr. Bacon. The result of his labor was no less creditable to those who made the selection than to himself; and the satisfactory success which is universally accorded to the working of our Library is largely due to his skill, judgment, and industry.

The traits of character possessed by Mr. Bacon were those which never fail of giving to their possessor positions of labor and usefulness. With a mind always teachable, sensibilities ever impressible, a heart open to every appeal, firm in administration, loving in discipline, in honor preferring others to himself, a man without an enemy, a Christian without guile, — rarely do we find these qualities combined in so high a degree in one person as in him; and we are constrained by our sense of just obligation, as well as by a desire that an example of such a life as his may ever stand upon our records, to acknowledge our sincere respect for his life, his labor, and his memory, trusting that at some future time, others, incited by his example, may add to the strength and usefulness of our Library by a character similar to his, and like him secure the reward promised to every faithful servant of humanity and Christianity.

It is now fifteen months since the Library was opened to the public; and it is proper that its progress should be reviewed, and your scrutiny of its management and condition invited.

The following statistics have been carefully prepared by Miss James, one of the Librarians; and they are so complete and correct, that we copy them into this report without change.

The Library has been open fifteen months, or 370 days in all. The occasions for closing have been, Fourth of July, twice; and once each for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Washington's Birthday, Fast, Soldier's Memorial, Seventeenth of June, Funeral of Mr. Bacon, and twelve days for examination and renovation.

The Library was opened with 7,084 volumes.

The year closed with 7,866 volumes.

The number of names entered the first month was 1,019.

The monthly addition of names was, for Aug., 1870, 181; Sept., 160; Oct., 130; Nov., 112; Dec., 101; Jan., 1871, 78; Feb., 81; March, 69; April, 49; May, 49; June, 40; July, 36; Aug., 46; Sept., 17; the total, Sept., 30th, being 2,176.

The number of names entered from the different villages is: —

The	village	of	Newton,	1,449	or	66½	per	cent.
"	"	"	Newton Centre,	164	"	7½	"	"
"	"	"	Newtonville,	345	"	16	"	"
"	"	"	West Newton,	76	"	3½	"	"
"	"	"	Auburndale,	74	"	3½	"	"
"	"	"	North Village,	25	"	1¼	"	"
"	"	"	Lower Falls,	6	"	⅓	"	"
"	"	"	Upper Falls,	11	"	½	"	"
"	"	"	Chestnut Hill,	6	"	⅓	"	"
"	"	"	Brighton,	5	"	¼	"	"
"	"	"	Watertown,	11	"	½	"	"

The variety of circulating books is indicated by the percentage of books taken out in a given time. Of 7,574 volumes taken, —

81½	per	cent	were	Fiction.
4½	"	"	"	Poetry, Essays, &c.
2	"	"	"	Biography.
3½	"	"	"	History.
3½	"	"	"	Magazines, Theology, and Mechanical Science.
4	"	"	"	Travels.
1	"	"	"	Agriculture and Horticulture.

The total volumes circulated for the year were, 43,170
For the fifteen months, 51,564

Volumes lost or damaged by borrowers, 6 ; all of which were replaced or paid for, so that we can report that not a single volume has been lost to the Library since the circulation began ; a fact which we do not find stated in the reports of any Library which we have received.

The average number of books given out per day since the opening has been 140; and, of the whole number of volumes in the Library, 48 per cent have been taken out every month. The highest circulation on single days was, — Jan. 7th and Feb. 11th, 301 volumes each ; and the lowest, May 4th, 45 volumes.

The amount of fines collected for the fifteen months was $301.04. The number of books re-covered from October, 1870, to October, 1871, was 4,734.

These statistics indicate a desire for reading in this community equal in quality and degree to the anticipations of the founders of the Library, and prove conclusively, we think, that its establishment was in no degree premature or unwise.

The managers were early impressed with the importance of a good Catalogue, and commenced its preparations without delay, but the time for its production exceeded their expectations. It has, however, been issued, and many copies sold.

Its cost was large ; and, as it is a great help in the selection of books, it is hoped that all who can will purchase it, and thus relieve the Treasury of the cost of publication.

Having completed the examination of the Library,

with the results thus given, we take the occasion to say, that there has been some complaint of the rule requiring that every person desiring to take books from the Library should procure the indorsement of some responsible person known to the Librarians or Superintendent. All will no doubt admit that such a rule is necessary in many cases; but some may think it unnecessary in cases where the person applying is known to be responsible. A little reflection will, we think, satisfy every one that the Librarians cannot discriminate in regard to this or any other rule, and that in every case all rules must be recognized without regard to persons. The importance of the rule alluded to has been made apparent to some of the indorsers by their being called upon to make good the loss or damage of books; and we have also found, in many instances, that persons who were dilatory in returning books have been induced to greater care by having their attention called to the fact that their indorsers would be called upon to secure the interests of the Library. We would therefore suggest to indorsers that they really incur responsibility by signing Cards, and that they ought to consider the fact, that in every case of damage or loss of a book, if the borrower fails to make good the loss, they will be called upon to do so.

Financial Condition. — At the last Annual Meeting the Managers reported that there were then in the Treasury funds sufficient to meet all the necessary expenses for the ensuing year. By the report of the Treasurer, now submitted, it will be seen that the esti-

mate was correct, and that the amount now in the Treasury is $710.72.

Foreseeing the want of funds for the ensuing year, the Managers have had the subject of providing them under consideration for some weeks, and have discussed various plans for meeting the emergency. The one which has commended itself with most favor is to raise about $10,000, deeming that sum necessary and sufficient for the purpose. The regular annual expenses, aside from the purchase of books, are about $3,000, leaving a sufficient sum for unexpected contingencies. A large portion of this sum has been subscribed, and we anticipate the subscription of the remainder with entire confidence.

It is proposed to continue the Reading Room in about its present condition; but the Library will be materially increased during each year by the expenditure of $1,000 per annum, provided by the foresight and liberality of Mr. Edmands.

On this review of our past success, present condition, and future prosperity, the Managers hope the subscribers, and all who are interested with them in maintaining a Free Library, useful and creditable to the Town, will find occasion for satisfaction, that we have gone on so prosperously and successfully to the present time.

It is hoped by the Managers that no occasion for dissatisfaction has been experienced by any one other than what has come to their knowledge, as it is their desire to know of any real or supposed cause of complaint in the management of either the Library or Reading Room, so that they can give a satisfactory explanation or apply a proper remedy.

In the management of such an institution, events often occur, which may seem, in their application to individual cases, onerous, but which, if considered in the aggregate, may not be deemed unreasonable. There is but one desire and purpose with the Public and the Managers, and this is common to both: namely, the useful efficiency and value of the Library in all its parts to the community; and this will continue to be promoted by the common interest and regard manifested by each and all in every way which opens in future.

In forecasting the future of such an institution as the Newton Free Library, it is expected that some difference of opinion will exist as to what that future may be, and that those persons who are connected with its management will be quite likely to outrun those whose interest in it is dependent upon periodical influences. By reason of the experiences of the past fifteen months, the Managers are constrained to say, that the importance and influence of the Library on the present and future of this community are very great, and likely to increase. This belief comes from the fact, that between fifty-one and fifty-two thousand volumes of as good reading as can be found in any circulating Library have been taken during the time; and in addition to this, probably some two thousand volumes have been consulted in the reference department, and also that the Reading Room has been visited by some twenty-five or more persons each day on the average, making some ten thousand opportunities embraced for reading newspapers and periodicals. By these facts it will be believed, by all persons who recognize popular reading

as one of the sources and elements of intelligence to a community, that a great and good influence has been exerted by this institution.

In addition to this general view, there is another quite as interesting; namely, that while it is admitted that many of the readers could and would have supplied themselves as well from other sources, a large class of those who enjoy the privileges could not do so; and one of the most interesting observations which any one can make for himself is to note on any day in the Reading Roon, and on Saturday evening in the Library, this class of persons. In the judgment of the Managers, the restraining and elevating influence of such a place — neat, orderly, quiet, and beautiful — upon the uncultured and uneducated classes at every visit is great, and is well calculated to make better citizens of both sexes, even were no influences received from the use of books and papers. The future of Newton is not uncertain: the only question is, whether she will be a part of the great city, or become such a one on her own account. If the former, her institutions may not be so localized as if the latter result should be attained; and, as the latter is the most probable, our labors should have reference to such an end. To give of our effort, time, and money, for the present good of ourselves, our families, and the present generation, is well; but to do so with a purpose of elevating to a higher citizenship, not only the present, but future generations, is higher and nobler, and will secure to us the satisfaction of knowing that we are in some good measure passing on to those who come after us that higher civilization which came to us from our Pilgrim Fathers as their richest legacy.

While many channels are open for the use of men and money for the good of others, which are highly efficient and praiseworthy, we believe that for practical benefit to the community none is more direct and potent for good than the fostering care of this Library. Its value would be greatly enhanced by pictures, statuary, collections of minerals and shells, and any kindred subjects; or if the unoccupied lower room could be appropriately furnished and used as a quiet, pleasant retreat for our school-teachers and others, for reading and writing, or other suitable use, it would be of great value. But all or any of these things require either special gifts or endowments, and we must wait for providential results to secure their accomplishment.

The Managers take great pleasure in acknowledging the gift of a valuable and beautiful clock for the Library, from N. P. Coburn, Esq., which has been received within the past year.

The generosity which has been manifested towards this institution, from its first inception to the present day, is believed to be without parallel in the history of our country. $50,000 at least have been raised from those not accounted wealthy; and this fact excites the surprise and admiration of those who call on us from other towns and cities, not less than does the appropriateness, beauty, and cheerful aspect of all our appointments, obtained by the outlay of a sum far less than is generally required for so successful an accomplishment.

It is very gratifying to the Managers to be able to say, that from no person who has visited us from abroad have we ever heard a word of unfavorable criticism, either upon the building, its arrangement, or the man-

ner of working the Library; on the contrary, so far as known to us, only admiration and delight have been expressed by every visitor.

The system of delivery of books from libraries is various, and the value of each is measured by the facility with which borrowers can be served, and the certainty of tracing and securing all books loaned; and generally the first year's trial and experience results in more or less of dissatisfaction with the system for convenience, and also with the loss of many books. It will be seen, however, by our statistical report, that not a single book has been lost, — a fact not true of any other library within our knowledge; and in regard to the service, we deliver books, we believe, with less delay than any other library with which we are acquainted. Probably much of this is the result of the systematic care of our late Superintendent in so perfecting the arrangement and system, as that the Librarians, who brought to their work at the outset an interest, zeal, and ability rarely to be met with, were able to accomplish the highly-successful results with which the year has ended.

The Managers take pleasure in commending, for the manner in which their respective duties have been performed, the Librarians, their Assistants, and the Janitor.

To maintain order, quiet, and neatness in all parts of such a building, is not always a pleasant and easy duty; but in all these respects the Managers take great pleasure in saying that they have no occasion thus far to take exception.

From the citizens of Newton the Managers request criticism. The work has been new to all of us: errors

of judgment are common to all, and we claim no exemption. Our endeavor has been to take such action as would result in the greatest benefit to the community in the aggregate.

In closing this report, we desire to suggest, that in proportion to the fostering care given to this institution will its influence and power be increased. We therefore commend it in all its present and future necessity, to the friends of that progress and improvement which results from general intelligence, confident that by its liberal support and endowments an accumulating benefit will be secured to the community.

[SUMMARY STATEMENT.]

Dr. ***Newton Free Library in Acct. with John C. Chaffin, Treasurer.*** **Cr.**

1871.				1870.		
Oct. 2.	To Payments on Building Account,		$1,654.91	Oct. 3.	By Balance on hand,	$5,567.65
	" " " Book Account,		1,327.89	1871.		
	" " " Catalogue Account,		1,100.52	Mar. 31.	" Cash received from Hon. J. Wiley Edmands, being second instalment towards his special Gift of $5,000 for the purchase of Books,	1,000.00
	" " " Reading-Room Account,		236.52		" Cash received for Catalogues sold,	163.00
	" " " Salary and Extra Service Account,		1,465.07		" " " " Books, Newspapers, and Boxes sold,	18.48
	" " " Lighting Account,		405.30		" " " " Fines collected,	245.61
	" " " Fuel Account,		224.41		" " " " Interest,	453.32
	" " " Expense Account, including Printing, Advertising, Binding, Repairs, Express Charges, Postage, &c.,		347.72		" " " one voluntary Subscription,	25.00
Oct. 3.	" Balance on hand,		710.72			
			$7,473.06			$7,473.06
				Oct. 3.	By Balance on hand,	$710.72

Errors excepted.

NEWTON, Oct. 3, 1871.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN, *Treasurer.*

We, the undersigned, appointed to audit the Treasurer's Accounts, have attended to that duty, and find the same correct and properly vouched for.

(Signed,) JOEL H. HILLS, ISAAC T. BURR, N. P. COBURN, } *Finance Committee*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

To the Subscribers of the Newton Free Library:

Gentlemen, — The accompanying financial report shows a balance of $710.72 in the treasury. In addition to this, there is in reserve $3,000 of the special gift by Hon. J. Wiley Edmands for the purchase of books; available in yearly instalments.

The whole amount of subscriptions received to the present time is	$49,268.00
Interest derived from the same,	1,761.93
Catalogues sold,	163.00
Books, newspapers, &c., sold,	57.01
Fines collected,	291.22
Making the total receipts to Oct. 3, 1871,	$51,541.16

There are no outstanding debts; and with this report the construction account is closed, showing the total expense of building, including furniture and fixtures.

Cost of land, with the fencing, filling, grading, &c.,		$38,219.10
Amount expended for books, periodicals, and newspapers,		5,927.85
Expense of Catalogue,		1,100.52
For salaries and extra services,		2,933.05
Other expenses as per accounts rendered,		2,649.92
Total expenditures from commencement to present time,		$50,830.44

In the accounts now and previously submitted will be found many items of expense, necessarily attendant upon the perfecting of every new enterprise and not to be anticipated in the future.

Insurance for $20,000 has been effected for five years upon the building and furniture; and upon the books $5,000, the latter to be increased as additions are made.

It is now estimated that the current expenses of the Library and Reading-room will be about $3,500 per annum.

The subscription recommended by the Board of Managers, and referred to by the President in his report, for defraying the expenses of the institution for the next ensuing three years, meets with a ready response; and it is confidently expected that, by the first of January next, the adequate sum will be secured.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN, *Treasurer.*

NEWTON, Oct. 3, 1871.

THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

NEWTON, MASS.

1872.

BOSTON:
GEORGE L. KEYES, PRINTER, 4 WILLIAMS COURT.
1873.

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

ORGANIZED 1869. INCORPORATED 1871.

MANAGERS, 1872-73.

GEORGE H. JONES,	Term	expires	October,	1874.
JOHN C. CHAFFIN,	"	"	"	"
ISAAC T. BURR,	"	"	"	"
J. WILEY EDMANDS,	"	"	"	1873.
FREDERICK DAVIS,	"	"	"	"
GEORGE C. LORD,	"	"	"	1875.
NATHAN P. COBURN,	"	"	"	"
FRANCIS M. JOHNSON,	"	"	"	1876.
DAVID B. JEWETT,	"	"	"	"
EDMUND W. CONVERSE,	"	"	"	1877.
WARREN P. TYLER,	"	"	"	"

ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 1872-73.

President.

GEORGE H. JONES.

Secretary and Clerk.

FREDERICK DAVIS.

Treasurer.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN.

Committee on Library.

GEORGE C. LORD, DAVID B. JEWETT,
ISAAC T. BURR, EDMUND W. CONVERSE,
WARREN P. TYLER.

Committee on Finance.

NATHAN P. COBURN, FRANCIS M. JOHNSON,
FREDERICK DAVIS.

Committee on Building.

J. WILEY EDMANDS, JOHN C. CHAFFIN,
GEORGE H. JONES.

Librarian.

Miss HANNAH P. JAMES.

Assistant Librarian.

Miss CAROLINE B. JACKSON.

Janitor.

ALBERT A. DEMOND.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

OCTOBER 29, 1872.

The Regular Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Newton Free Library was held at the Library Building, on Tuesday evening, October 29, 1872, having been duly notified by the Clerk.

In the absence of the President George H. Jones, Esq., caused by illness, the meeting was called to order by the Clerk.

On motion it was *Voted*, That George C. Lord, Esq., be appointed Chairman for the evening.

The number of members present was twenty-four.

The Records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer, Mr. John C. Chaffin, made his Annual Report, with a summary statement of his account for the year ending October 1, 1872, which was accepted.

The Chairman of the meeting read the following Reports, viz.:

The Annual Report of the Librarian, Miss Hannah P. James;

The Annual Report of the Library Committee;

The Annual Report of the Committee on Building and Grounds;

The Annual Report of the Managers, made through the President.

On motion of Mr. Joseph N. Bacon, it was *Voted*, That the several reports, as read by the Chairman, be accepted.

The meeting then proceeded to the choice of two managers for the term of five years, to take the place of John S. Farlow, Esq., and Gen. A. B. Underwood, whose term of office has expired.

And E. W. Converse, Esq., and W. P. Tyler, Esq., having received the necessary number of votes, were declared elected.

On motion of Mr. Daniel E. Snow, it was *Voted*, That the thanks of the members of the Newton Free Library be presented to the retiring members of the Board of Managers, Messrs. Farlow and Underwood, for their very efficient and faithful services.

Adjourned.

FREDERICK DAVIS,

Clerk.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1872.

The Managers of the Newton Free Library have the honor to present to the Corporation their third Annual Report.

We take pleasure in the opportunity thus presented, to report that no event has occurred during the year prejudicial to the increasing usefulness which has attended all the labor incident to the establishment and maintenance of the library, from its inception to the present period.

At no time has any want of interest on the part of the public been manifested, nor has the industry of those who have ever worked for its support been remitted.

This result is due to an intelligent appreciation of the benefit resulting to the public from its establishment.

The year has not passed without a repetition of valuable favors bestowed by generous friends; and the Managers desire to express for the Corporation, as well as themselves, their most hearty thanks for every such recognition of the value of the institution.

ORGANIZATION UNDER THE CHARTER.

At the last Annual Meeting a vote was passed accepting the Act of Incorporation granted by the Legislature of 1871. This acceptance was found on subsequent investigation to be illegal, and a meeting was called and held in March, 1872, at which formal and legal action was taken, and a regular organization effected. This organization, by the choice of officers and adoption of By-Laws, was also made to conform to the requirements and conditions of the previous gifts and subscriptions.

Article 9 of the By-Laws makes it the duty of the Treasurer to present at the Annual Meeting a report of the financial condition of the Corporation.

The report which has been made by the Treasurer gives a clear and concise statement of the receipts and expenditures of the year, and the present condition of the treasury.

In the last Annual Report the Managers stated that they were engaged in the effort to raise the sum of $10,000, with which to defray the current expenses of the next three years from that date. By this report of the Treasurer it will be seen that the effort was entirely successful.

The financial exhibit thus presented, gives with sufficient detail the sources of income and the necessary expenditures.

It will be noticed that the current expenses were much more than last year; the reasons for which are also given.

The views of the Treasurer as to the future dependence of the Institution upon the fostering care of the

public will commend themselves to the regard of those who desire to perpetuate the benefits of the Library.

The reports which have been made to the Managers from the several departments, present the condition and requirements of the Institution so clearly and satisfactorily that we trust we have only to call attention to them, with full approval, to commend them to your careful consideration.

The Managers have made it incumbent upon the Librarian to make to the Board a report of the general condition of the Library at the end of each current year, and to propose for their consideration any measure which in her judgment will enhance the value of the privileges afforded. In accordance with this requirement the Librarian has made such a report, and we would call special attention to it as presenting clearly and sufficiently the condition of the Library, and the efficiency of its administration to meet the requirements of the community.

No more important trust is delegated to a committee, by the Managers, than that of disbursing the liberal sum placed at their disposal for the purchase of books; and the time, care and labor which the Library Committee has given to this work, and the satisfaction of the reading public with selections made by them, is evidence that they have appreciated the responsibility and justified the appointment.

If it were possible for the Library to enjoy a continuation of the labor of the entire Committee, the Managers would feel relieved of any anxiety for the future judicious increase of the supply of good reading for the community. But in accordance with the By-Law, that two members of the Board of Managers shall retire each

year, it so happens that both members who thus retire are members of this Committee, and have been since the purchase of books began.

The report of this Committee, which has been presented by the Chairman, as well as the labor it has performed under his direction, is evidence that the Government will suffer loss by his retirement from the Board; and his associate, whose term also expires, will carry with him assurances, that in the selection of books, as well as in all other labor, he has shown as intelligent efficiency in the service of our Library as won for him honor and renown in the service of his country.

The report of the Committee on the building and grounds, presents all that requires present attention, and the Managers do not doubt that as future wants become apparent they will be willingly supplied.

An important responsibility devolves upon the government of such an institution as a free library, sustained by voluntary gifts, in that it is expected to so forecast the future as to secure the receipt of sufficient money wherewith to provide liberally for all proper expenditure to maintain its existence and increase its usefulness.

The discharge of this duty is seldom regarded as the most desirable labor to perform, but is greatly relieved of its irksomeness when met by so ready a response as to ensure success.

Seldom has a board of managers had occasion to ask more liberal and frequent donations than ours, and never have such appeals been more generously answered than by the patrons of this Library. As a consequence, we are in funds sufficient for our ordinary expenses for two years from this date. Such a period

of time is rapidly reached, however, when pecuniary obligations are maturing, and the Managers deem it their duty to remind those, whose desire is to disburse the gifts they receive from a favoring Providence, in accordance with good judgment and a regard for the best interests of society, that at any and all times, and in any way, voluntary gifts of any nature and magnitude will be received with satisfaction and thanks.

We would not depreciate gifts of large sums, but small donations bring with them assurances of an interest in our labors taken by the masses, which is a pleasure and a satisfaction.

Especially would we remind those of our citizens who have not yet contributed to our funds at all, that it would give us support as well as pleasure to see their names on the list of membership of the Corporation, and which would also give us the benefit, not only of the sum of ten dollars, or any larger sum, but of their presence at the business meetings of the Corporation to assist in our deliberations. We desire here to say that we are in no sense a close corporation, but that we wish above all things else, that the largest possible number shall have a voice in the management.

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

The Managers deem it expedient to give in this first report after the organization, the names of all persons who have become members of the Corporation by the payment of ten dollars and upwards. This record is taken from the subscription books, and if any omission has been made the Secretary will gladly rectify the list. It will be found annexed to this report.

The Managers beg to call the attention of those friends who wish to promote the usefulness of the Institution, to the entire absence of works of art in each department. We know that the rooms are pleasant and attractive, and that abundant instruction and pleasure can be obtained from the various reading which is furnished, but if this supply could be supplemented by appropriate pictures or statuary of merit, or by any rare, curious or instructive specimens of art or nature, the attractiveness and usefulness of the rooms would be greatly enhanced.

The Managers recognize the liberality with which the Library has been established by the citizens of the town, and would not make unnecessary or offensive appeals to a generous public, which never suffers a good object to languish, but venture to urge upon the attention of all, the desirableness of gifts of the nature described, and would express in advance the great satisfaction which such gifts would afford to them in common with all visitors to the Institution.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

No community is more desirous than ours that such rules and regulations as are requisite to secure all the proprieties which naturally attach to every time and place should be established and maintained. And yet no year has passed since our organization, when some persons have not felt aggrieved at the enforcement of some rule or regulation, which in their personal case seemed unkind and arbitrary; and we suppose coming years will bring similar experiences. With such expectations it may be as well to allow the occasions to

come and go without note or comment; but the Managers desire that the public should be assured that it is more a pain than a pleasure to them to exercise any authority which has been made a part of their official duty, and that were discrimination possible, it would give them pleasure to recognize reasons for it, when any could be urged, but we are confident that such an attempt would be repugnant to the good judgment of the citizens of Newton, and that the æsthetic influence of the general character of our Library would be lost, and that where are now the attractions of neatness, quiet and order, there would prevail the opposites. The Managers entertain the belief that no day in the year passes without an influence being created, or an impression being made, upon some person whose character is elevated thereby, and from which society will recognize in future years that it has gained in social power. This may be regarded as a vagary; but we think not, and therefore desire the support and countenance of all good citizens in our endeavors to maintain and even increase such educational influences as should emanate from such institutions.

The members of the Corporation will unite with the Managers in feelings of gratitude that no event has occurred to occasion them grief or discouragement during the past year, and that all the duties of the Government have been made pleasant by the entire harmony of their deliberations. The care of such an institution requires time and unremitting attention, and all who are selected to serve on the Board of Management should realize the responsibility of the trust as belonging, not to a body of gentlemen collectively, but to himself personally, and that the success and value of the service depends upon

his giving to its requirements his own personal attention. If this estimate of responsibility continues in the future, as it has ever prevailed in the past, the service rendered by the Board will ensure the constant reward which comes from a conscientious and proper discharge of public duty.

GEO. H. JONES,

President Board of Managers.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

To the Newton Free Library Corporation:

Gentlemen, — Since the previous financial report, it gives me pleasure to announce that subscriptions amounting to $11,270 have been raised and all paid in. Included in this amount are several voluntary donations, among which is one of two hundred dollars from Mrs. E. H. Eldridge, for the purchase of books; affording additional evidence of continued interest in the Institution.

One thousand dollars have also been received from Hon. J. Wiley Edmands, being the third annual instalment towards his special gift of $5,000, for the purchase of books.

The total of receipts for the year, including the balance of $710.72 on hand October 3d, 1871, is $13,904.70.

The amount of expenditures, exclusive of the book account, is $3,879.58, leaving a balance of $8,996.09 in the treasury. All indebtedness to October 1st, 1872, has been paid.

The current expenses for the year have been somewhat larger than was anticipated, rendered necessary by the printing of *two* annual reports, several bulletins, additional insurance, concreting of walks, and other improvements deemed important.

While the Institution, by the recent liberal contributions of its friends, has been provided with the means of support for the present, we think that it would be well

to look forward to the future, and consider its wants and how to provide for its maintenance after the next ensuing two years shall have expired, for which provision has been made.

Since the commencement of the enterprise, many new residents with ample means have come among us, who have not as yet become identified with its interests, but who, doubtless, will be found ready when the emergency arises, to do their share towards the continuance of an institution so beneficial to all the interests of the community.

It is also hoped that all enjoying the inestimable advantages of so valuable an Institution, who possess the ability, will cordially unite in the establishment of a permanent fund, or in some other way provide for its future needs, and it would be extremely gratifying to the Board of Management if this could be accomplished by voluntary subscriptions.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN,

Treasurer.

NEWTON, OCTOBER 1ST, 1872.

[SUMMARY STATEMENT, OCTORER 1, 1872.]

Dr. Newton Free Library in account with John C. Chaffin, Treasurer. *Cr.*

1872.				1871.		
Oct. 1.	To Payments on Book Account,		$1,029.03	Oct. 3.	By Balance on hand,	$710.72
	" " " Salary Account,		1,775.25	1872.		
	" " " Printing and Advertising Account,		305.05	Oct. 1.	" Cash received for Catalogues sold,	114.00
	" " " Binding Account,		105.78		" " " " Fines collected,	231.53
	" " " Reading Room Account, for Newspapers and Periodicals,		217.55		" " " " Books, etc., sold,	26.68
	" " " Insurance Account,		100.00		" " " from Subscriptions,	11,270.00
	" " " Building Account, including Repairs, Furniture, Concreting Walks, etc.,		354.57		" " " " Hon. J. Wiley Edmands, being third annual instalment towards his special gift of $5,000, for the purchase of Books,	1,000.00
	" " " Lighting Account,		448.70		" " " for Interest to October 1, 1872,	551.77
	" " " Fuel Account,		291.48			
	" " " Incidental Expense Account, for Covering Paper, Stationery, Postage, Expressage, etc.		281.20			
1872.			$4,908.61			
Oct. 1.	" Balance of Cash on hand,		8,996.09			
			$13,904.70			$13,904.70
				1872.		
				Oct. 1.	By Balance of cash on hand,	$8,996.09

Errors excepted.

NEWTON, October 1, 1872.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN, *Treasurer.*

We, the undersigned, appointed to audit the Treasurer's Accounts, have attended to that duty, and find the same correct and properly vouched for.

(Signed,) N. P. COBURN, F. M. JOHNSON, FRED. DAVIS, } *Finance Committee.*

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library:

I herewith present the Librarian's Annual Report of the condition and work of the Library for the year ending October 1st, 1872.

The number of volumes now belonging to the Library is eight thousand five hundred and fifty-four. During the year seven hundred and five volumes have been added — one hundred and seven by donation, and five hundred and ninety-eight by purchase; eleven volumes which have been lost or damaged, either by Library service or by individuals, have been replaced; two have been paid for and not replaced; one volume is yet to be paid for, and three are missing. Of the accessions, twenty-one volumes are duplicates. But few duplicates are purchased, and those the works of the most popular writers only — such as Mrs. Stowe, Mrs. Craik, Mrs. Whitney, Miss Alcott, C. D. Warner, and one or two others. Two hundred and thirty-five volumes were obtained through our Library Agent in London, and include many valuable works.

The circulation for the year was 40,565 volumes, being 2,505 less than the previous year. The largest number delivered in one day was 326, on February 24th, and the smallest number, 34, on the 22d of August,— the day of the terrific thunder-storm. During the whole month of August, the intense heat and

frequent tempests kept the circulation small, it being 600 less than in August, 1871.

This will account for the deficiency in part, but there are other causes to which we must look for a further explanation. When the Library was first opened, there was a great store of juvenile and other fiction fresh to many readers, which was sought for with avidity, and which carried our circulation up to a point beyond our anticipations. To have kept up our rate of delivery to that point, would have made necessary the purchase of a much larger per cent. of fiction during the year than was deemed wise by the Library Committee.

It appears to have been the aim of the Committee to provide the most interesting and attractive works of Travel, Natural History, Popular Science, Poetry and Art, hoping thereby to elevate and cultivate the popular taste.

That their efforts have in a measure been successful the Librarians can testify, as a higher order of books is gradually finding its way into hands that once sought for nothing but what was exciting and sensational. Two printed Bulletins of accessions were issued during the year, and every book, almost without exception, has been called for repeatedly. It is evident, however, that a book of Travels, Natural History, or Poetry cannot be read with such haste as the weak sensationalisms of Oliver Optic or Mrs. Holmes, and it is to the fact of an evident improvement in the class of books called for and read, and the consequently greater length of time needed for their perusal, that the Librarians charge the larger part of the deficiency in the circulation.

In the report of the Cincinnati Public Library, the Librarian says: "From seventy-five to eighty per cent.

(of fiction) is the usual report of public libraries in this country. In the free libraries of England, as Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Sheffield, the percentage is still higher. It is by *giving the people what they wish* to read, that the English free libraries have built up their enormous circulations, amounting in some instances to a million volumes a year." In communities like those of the great manufacturing towns of England, one could hardly question the propriety of providing any reading that was not positively harmful, as a relief to the misery of so many of the laboring classes; but in a prosperous town like our own, with no household so destitute that the newspaper is not a frequent visitor, would an enormous circulation, obtained in a like manner, be a sure evidence of the greatest amount of benefit conferred by the Library?

Rev. E. E. Hale, in "How To Do It," says: "The notion comes into many people's lives, that the mere process of reading is in itself virtuous. Because children who read on Sunday make less noise than those who play tag in their neighbor's front yards, there has grown up this notion, that to read is in itself one of the virtuous acts. Some people, if they told the truth, when counting up the seven virtues, would count them as Purity, Temperance, Meekness, Frugality, Honesty, Courage, and Reading."

That reading *may* be of incalculable benefit no one will deny — but that from three to six volumes a week of weak and improbable fiction — juvenile or otherwise — is a benefit to any one, is a matter of grave doubt.

With these views in mind, the books selected for purchase have, many of them, been works filled with beautiful illustrations, such as Lowe's "Ferns," "Grasses,"

and "Beautiful Leaved Plants;" Hibberd's "New and Rare Beautiful Leaved Plants;" Michelet's "The Bird;" Wood's "Strange Dwellings;" Harding's "Lessons on Art," &c.; Mrs. Palliser's "Brittany" and "Historic Devices;" Blackburn's "Art in the Mountains;" Barnard's "Sketches from Nature;" Tymms' & Wyatt's and Jones's "Illuminating;" Texier and Pullan's "Byzantine Architecture;" Beattie's "Waldenses;" Wright's "Womankind in all Ages," and "History of Domestic Manners and Customs." Knight's "Pictorial History of England" will be found to furnish a complete cyclopædia of English History. Figuier's eight volumes of Natural History have also been put in circulation. But by far the most valuable accession to our list of illustrated works, was the gift of Audubon's "Birds of America," in one large eleplant folio of plates, and four volumes of text, which was presented by our generous neighbor, Mr. Henry Claflin of Brighton.

The Library was open two hundred and ninety-six days, being closed the eight usual holidays, and twelve days for cleaning and examination. Cards were issued to 594 persons, fifty per cent. of whom were from the village of Newton, eighteen per cent. from Newtonville, fourteen per cent. from Newton Centre, ten per cent. from West Newton, and the remainder from the six other villages, besides six from Brighton and two from Watertown. The whole number of cards issued is 2,769.

The neat and cleanly appearance of the books has always been a matter of pride with the Librarians, but they are often so carelessly handled by the borrowers that it involves a great amount of labor to keep them in a presentable condition. No less than 6,737 books

were re-covered during the year, and the public are earnestly requested to treat their books with more care and attention to their cleanliness.

As usual, there has been little trouble in maintaining the good order and quiet of the Library Room, and though the notice "No conversation is permitted" may seem unnecessary and irksome to many, a moment's reflection will convince them that the absence of such a rule would convert the Library into a conversation room, where confusion and disorder would soon reign, instead of the present beauty and quiet of the place.

Respectfully submitted,

HANNAH P. JAMES.

October, 1872.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee of the Managers of the Newton Free Library take pleasure in reporting the condition of the Library and Reading-Room as satisfactory in every respect. The utmost good order and conduct have been maintained all through the year, no cause whatever for complaint having occurred.

There have been added to the Library the past year three hundred and sixty-three volumes of American publications, purchased here at a cost of $463.89, and two hundred and thirty-five volumes of European, purchased in London at cost of $565.14, making a total cost for the year of $1,029.03, and exceeding the appropriation made by the Managers in the early part of the year by $29.03. In addition to these, one hundred and seven volumes have been donated during the year. We have also received from Henry Claflin, Esq. of Brighton, the splendid gift of "Audubon's Birds of America," in one large elephant folio of plates, and four volumes of text. These donations have been gratefully acknowledged.

The Library has lately undergone its usual thorough annual examination and cleaning. The very few missing and damaged books will be found duly reported in detail in the Report of the Librarian. It has been the continued aim of the Committee and the Librarian to

study well the wants of our community, and to supply, as far as our means would admit, *all* the books asked for. In the further selection of books for purchase, the Committee has sought to confine it as far as compatible with the proper requirements and expectations of readers, to works of the more solid character. In this, as in all libraries throughout the country, works of fiction are mostly circulated; this we cannot well change or alter, and perhaps it is not desirable or expedient to do so; we can however, even in works of fiction, do much to elevate the desires and tastes of readers above the mere sensational, to works of a more beneficial and enduring character, by exercising proper scrutiny and discretion in the selection of those we purchase. This we have endeavored to do, and we believe with good effect; we have the testimony of the Librarian to the fact that "a higher order of books is generally finding its way into hands that once sought for nothing but what was exciting and sensational."

The Committee regret to report a very small sale of our library catalogues. The Managers, with a desire to afford readers every possible facility for selecting and obtaining books from the Library, procured at heavy expense a large edition of the library catalogue, in the confident belief and reasonable expectation that nearly every family would desire a copy for convenient *home* use; in this expectation they have been greatly disappointed, the greater part of the edition still remaining on our shelves unsold; we would earnestly call the particular attention of readers to this, and request all whose means will warrant, to procure a copy at once; by so doing they will not only furnish additional means

for procuring more books, but also promote their own convenience by enabling them to make their selections of books at home, and obtain them with all the greater despatch at the Library in consequence.

The Committee think it would be advisable to send our London purchasing agent a copy of our catalogue and supplements, with directions to purchase works of well established character, and desirable for a library like ours, and that do not appear in our catalogue, whenever he can make such purchases at low rates of cost. It often happens in England, at the auction sales of public and private libraries breaking up there, that really standard and desirable books can be bought at *very* low cost; coming to us thus bought, and free of customs duty here, we know of no way by which our want of such books can be so well or so cheaply supplied. With proper restrictions and directions from time to time, in the amount to be thus expended, we commend this suggestion and an experimental trial to the consideration of our successors.

The Reading Room has been well attended and satisfaction generally expressed with the conveniences afforded. The newspapers and periodicals now on its files and tables are in goodly number, and quite sufficient to give readers full information of the current events and topics of the day. The newspapers comprise those of the principal cities of the United States and Canada, with one or two of Great Britain and India. The periodicals comprise all the leading ones of the United States and Great Britain. The newspaper department is maintained at a cost of one hundred and sixty-seven dollars and eighty cents, and the magazine and periodi-

cal at a cost of forty-nine dollars and seventy-five cents, making a total for the year of two hundred and seventeen dollars and fifty-five cents. This we consider quite ample for all present purposes.

For the Committee,

J. S. FARLOW,

Chairman.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AND GROUNDS.

To the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library:

Gents, — The Committee on Building and Grounds would report, That no special requirement exists at present with regard to matters in our charge. We have endeavored to maintain the property in good condition and repair. When the drain across Elmwood Street is completed, it is hoped that the importance and necessity of the proper drainage of Centre Street, and the cellars thereon, will secure a result which will obviate the inconvenience we suffer from water in the cellar. The Committee will give this continued attention. It is apparent to the Committee that at a time not distant, more shelves will be required for the constant increase of books. There is yet room for some two thousand volumes more, but some alcoves are full, and additions to the subjects for which they are appropriated will require an enlargement of them, or some mode of rearrangement. The latter is scarcely practicable, and the former will be postponed as long as possible. During future years the Library is likely materially to increase, and the capacity of the building for an increase of shelving to a large extent is ample.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee by

GEO. H. JONES,

Chairman.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

This Corporation shall be called the "Newton Free Library," whose object shall be the establishing and maintaining a Free Library, and for the promotion of intellectual improvement in the Town of Newton.

ARTICLE II.

All persons who have subscribed, or shall hereafter subscribe, ten dollars or upwards to the funds of the Association or Corporation of the "Newton Free Library" shall be entitled to membership therein, and the right to vote at any of its meetings.

ARTICLE III.

The annual meeting of the Corporation for the choice of Managers and other business, shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of October in each year. Other meetings of the Corporation may be held whenever called by the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE IV.

At any meeting of the Corporation, duly notified, not less than twenty members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE V.

Section 1. The affairs of the Corporation shall be conducted by a board of eleven Managers, who shall be

elected by ballot, and whose full term of office shall be for five years.

SECT. 2. The vacancies occasioned by the expiration of the term of office of the Managers shall be filled by the election of two members at each annual meeting, except in the year 1874 and every fifth annual meeting thereafter, when three shall be elected.

SECT. 3. In case a vacancy occurs in the Board of Managers from failure to elect at an annual meeting, or from any cause other than the expiration of term, such vacancy may be filled for the remainder of the term at any meeting of the Corporation. It shall be the duty of the Board of Managers to call a meeting of the Corporation within three months after such vacancy occurs, for the purpose of filling the same.

SECT. 4. The Managers shall be chosen by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at any regularly notified meeting. The retiring Managers shall be ineligible for one year after retiring.

ARTICLE VI.

The Board of Managers shall have charge of all the affairs of the Corporation and shall conduct the same in the manner best calculated to subserve the purposes of a Free Library.

They shall annually choose by Ballot one of their number to be President, who shall also be President of the Corporation, and also suitable persons from their own body or at large, to be Secretary and Treasurer for the term of one year, or until others shall be elected in their stead.

Vacancies in either of the foregoing offices, may be

filled for the remainder of the year by the Board at any meeting thereof.

The Board of Managers shall appoint a Librarian and make such other appointments as may be necessary for the proper care of the Library, Building, and Grounds, and vote the compensation to be paid therefor.

They shall also at the annual meeting make a detailed report of the affairs of the Corporation, and recommend such measures for adoption as they may deem expedient.

ARTICLE VII.

The President shall preside at all the meetings of the Corporation and of the Board of Managers; he may call special meetings of the Board of Managers whenever he may deem it necessary.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Secretary who also shall be the Clerk of the Corporation, shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of his duty, and shall keep a true record of the doings at the meetings of the Corporation, subject at all times to the inspection of the members thereof, and also of the doings of the Board of Managers.

He shall notify all meetings of the Corporation, and conduct its correspondence unless otherwise ordered.

He shall notify members of their appointments on Committees.

ARTICLE IX.

The Treasurer shall give bond with satisfactory sure ties for the faithful performance of his duties in such sum as shall be fixed by the Board of Managers. He

shall receive all moneys or other funds of the Corporation and invest or expend the same under the directions of said Board, and shall keep a correct record of such receipts, expenditures and investments. He shall also at the annual meeting of the Corporation and at such other times as the Board of Managers direct, make a detailed report of the financial condition of the Corporation.

He shall also keep a record of the names of all the members of the Corporation.

ARTICLE X.

The Librarian shall have charge of the Library under the direction, supervision and control of the Board of Managers. The Librarian shall make a full and detailed report to the Board of Managers, of the condition and wants of the Library to be submitted by them at the annual meeting of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XI.

These By-Laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote at any meeting regularly notified for the purpose.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

LIBRARY.

Article 1. The Library Rooms shall be open every secular day throughout the year, excepting the legal holidays and such other days as the Managers may direct, from ten o'clock, A. M., to twelve M., and from two to eight o'clock, P. M., and persons entitled to the privileges of the Library may consult any books designed for reference during these hours — the books to be used only in the Library room. The Library hours for the delivery of books for circulation shall be from two to eight o'clock, P. M.

Art. 2. The following persons shall be entitled to the use of the Rooms and to borrow books from the Library for *home* use, upon signing a promise to obey its rules and regulations:

First. All inhabitants of Newton above the age of twelve years, known to the officers of the Library as proper persons to enjoy its privileges, or so recommended by some responsible citizen, who shall thus make himself liable for any loss resulting therefrom; and also all Teachers connected with our Public Schools, not residents in this town. *Second.* Any person not an inhabitant of this town, who shall have contributed to the funds of the Library a sum not less than ten dollars.

Art. 3. Every person entitled to borrow books from the Library shall receive from the Librarian a printed card, having on one side spaces for the catalogue num-

bers of the books desired, and on the reverse, spaces for the entry of the book taken; and this card must always be presented on obtaining any book and also upon the return of any book. A list of all persons entering their names for the purpose of borrowing books shall be kept in the Library, the residence of each individual, and the loan number inserted against the name.

Art. 4. No person shall be allowed more than one volume at one time, and no book can be changed the same day on which it is loaned. The time allowed for the retention of any book shall be fourteen days, unless a shorter time is specified on the cover, and any person retaining a book beyond the specified time shall incur a fine of two cents a day till it is returned to the Library.

Art. 5. Any book retained two weeks beyond the time prescribed shall be sent for by the Librarian, and the expense of obtaining it shall be paid by the person who has so retained it.

Art. 6. Borrowers of books must give notice to the Librarian of any change in their place of residence.

Art. 7. Injuries to books beyond reasonable wear, and all losses, shall be made good to the satisfaction of the Managers.

Art. 8. All books must be returned to the Library at least ten days previous to the annual examination of the Library, under a penalty of fifty cents; reasonable notice to be given by the Librarian.

Art. 9. Persons obtaining books from the Library are not permitted to loan them to any one not a member of the same household.

Art. 10. No persons shall receive books, or enjoy the privileges of the Library who is in arrears for fines or forfeitures, until all such charges are paid.

ART. 11. All persons visiting the Library Rooms shall be required to demean themselves quietly, and no loud or disturbing conversation will be allowed in the Rooms. Any one abusing the privileges of the Library by improper or offensive conduct, shall be denied admission to the Rooms.

ART. 12. Books of reference, and those deemed unsuitable for general circulation, shall not be loaned for use out of the Library, except upon an order signed by at least two members of the Board of Managers.

READING ROOM.

ART. 1. The Reading Room shall be open every secular day of the year, excepting legal holidays, at seven and a half o'clock, A. M., from the first of May to the first of November, and at eight o'clock, A. M., from the first of November to the first of May, closing throughout the year at nine o'clock P. M.

ART. 2. All conversation and conduct inconsistent with the orderly use of the room by persons resorting to it, are strictly prohibited.

ART. 3. All persons violating the rules of the Room, or who shall conduct themselves in any manner unbecoming the place, shall be reported to the Managers and by them excluded, either temporarily or permanently, from the privileges of the Room.

FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

NEWTON, MASS.

1873.

BOSTON:
GEORGE L. KEYES, PRINTER, 4 WILLIAMS COURT.
1873.

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

ORGANIZED 1869. INCORPORATED 1871.

MANAGERS, 1873-74.

GEORGE H. JONES,	.	.	Term expires	October,	1874.
JOHN C. CHAFFIN,	.	.	"	"	"	"
ISAAC T. BURR,	.	.	"	"	"	"
GEORGE C. LORD,	.	.	"	"	"	1875.
NATHAN P. COBURN,	.		"	"	"	"
FRANCIS M. JOHNSON,	.		"	"	"	1876.
DAVID B. JEWETT,	.	.	"	"	"	"
EDMUND W. CONVERSE,	.		"	"	"	1877.
WARREN P. TYLER,	.	.	"	"	"	"
JAMES F. EDMANDS,	.		"	"	"	1878.
FREDERICK JACKSON,	.		"	"	"	"

ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 1873-74.

President.

GEORGE H. JONES.

Secretary and Clerk.

FREDERICK JACKSON.

Treasurer.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN.

Committee on Library.

GEORGE C. LORD, ISAAC T. BURR,
WARREN P. TYLER, EDMUND W. CONVERSE,
FREDERICK JACKSON.

Committee on Finance.

NATHAN P. COBURN, FRANCIS M. JOHNSON,
DAVID B. JEWETT.

Committee on Building.

GEORGE H. JONES, JOHN C. CHAFFIN,
JAMES F. EDMANDS.

Librarian.

Miss HANNAH P. JAMES.

Assistant Librarian.

Miss CAROLINE B. JACKSON.

Janitor.

ALBERT A. DEMOND.

[*Extract from the Records, Nov.* 11*th*, 1873.]

Voted, That the President shall have the general superintendence of the Library for the present year.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

SEPTEMBER 23, 1873.

A Special Meeting of the subscribers to the Newton Free Library was held on Tuesday evening, September 23d, 1873, having been duly notified by the Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The number of members present was twenty-five.

The President read extracts of the records of the doings of the managers, in relation to their action whereby the proprietors of the Newton Centre Library Association were voted to be enrolled as members of the Newton Free Library.

George C. Lord, Chairman of the Committee, stated that the Committee had examined the Books and found them quite valuable and desirable, and made further explanation of the benefit to the Library in accepting the Books.

And on motion of A. F. Thayer, seconded by J. N. Bacon, the following vote was passed unanimously:

Voted, That the acts and doings of the Managers in reference to the acceptance of the Books of the Newton Centre Library Association, and all their votes which appear relative thereto, be and are hereby confirmed.

Voted, To adjourn.

FREDERICK DAVIS, *Clerk.*

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

OCTOBER 28, 1873.

The Regular Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Newton Free Library was held at the Library Building, on Tuesday evening, October 28, 1873, having been duly notified by the Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The number of members present was twenty-seven.

The records of the last Annual Meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer, John C. Chaffin, made his Annual Report, with a summary statement of his account for the year ending October 1, 1873, which was accepted.

The Clerk read the Report of the Librarian, Miss Hannah P. James.

George C. Lord, Chairman of the Library Committee, made an Annual Report.

George H. Jones, President, made the Annual Report of the Board of Managers.

After reading each of the above reports it was *Voted*, To accept the same and place on file.

The meeting then proceeded to the choice of two managers for the term of five years, to take the place of J. Wiley Edmands and Frederick Davis, whose term of office has expired.

And James F. Edmands and Frederick Jackson having received the necessary number of votes were declared elected.

On motion of George C. Lord, it was *Voted*, That the thanks of the members of the Newton Free Library be presented to Messrs. Edmands and Davis, the retiring members of the Board, for their very efficient and faithful services.

Adjourned.

FREDERICK DAVIS, *Clerk.*

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1873.

The Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library have the honor to present their Fourth Annual Report.

The reports of the Librarian and the Committee on the Library, as well as that of the Treasurer, are so complete and present the present condition, as well as the past results, with so much appropriateness as to leave little to be added by the Managers to the topics which fall naturally under those departments respectively.

The Treasurer's Report concisely sets forth the condition, wants and necessities of the Library, and commends itself to your consideration.

The Librarian's Report makes known to you distinctly the continued successful distribution through the town of a large amount of good reading which seems to be thoroughly appreciated by the community. This we regard as the practical result by which we are to judge of the value of a Free Circulating Library. It will be noted that forty-one thousand two hundred and forty-nine books passed out of our Library during the

year, and it is fair to presume that most of them were read by at least one person. The mere statement of this fact is sufficient to arrest the attention of every reflective person, and to secure such an estimate of the value of our Library as will ensure to it liberal support and active co-operation.

From the report of the Library Committee you learn that the Committee have been observant of the true purpose of the Library, viz.: To furnish good reading in an attractive form to a judicious extent, but not to continually crowd upon the shelves everything new which may be published, nor even all works highly commended by reviewers, but rather to consolidate its usefulness by meritorious and varied forms of literature, and thus give the institution a substantial record and reputation.

With such a constant and judicious regard for the growth and usefulness of the Library as is manifested by the Committee, and fully supplemented by the untiring industry and unflagging interest of the Librarian, the public may confidently expect that the institution, in all its departments, will maintain the vigor of its youth while its maturer years will ensure to it an abiding interest with a liberal community.

It is seldom that all those persons upon whom devolve the labor and care of an important public interest are alike interested in the constant success and improvement of it; but for the Newton Free Library there seems to be an interest and affection, ever on the alert to secure its usefulness and maintain its reputation. This is conspicuously manifested by the constant attention of the Assistant Librarian to the order and neatness of the alcoves and the cleanly condition of the books,

as well as to all the duties which specially devolve upon her.

The Janitor also manifests equal interest in the care of the grounds and the general tidiness of all parts of the building. For such constant endeavor to secure the highest possible return for the generous outlay which has been made by a liberal public, an appreciative community will never fail to award ultimate satisfaction.

The action of the Newton Centre Library Association in merging its entire Library in ours is regarded by the Managers as both generous and judicious, and it is hoped, not only that the members of that Association will by this act become identified with us in our labor, but that there will also come to our aid from that village some portion of that intellectual strength for which it has an established reputation.

While the other villages of the town continue to maintain institutions similar to ours, we can scarcely expect many of the citizens of those localities to become actively interested with us, but it is very gratifying to note that we have many subscribers from the remote parts of the town, and we indulge the expectation that when the territorial lines are by wards instead of villages, a more common interest in the leading enterprises of the community will be manifested, and that Newton will in due time be as conspicuous as one of the lesser cities of New England, as she has of late years been as one of the leading towns, in enterprise, intelligence and morality. This will only result when all men and women who desire such results unite each with the other in maintaining and giving efficiency to every influence and enterprise having for an aim and end the

intellectual, moral and religious culture of the whole community.

The Managers desire to refer to the fact that as usual at the Annual Meeting you are again called upon to elect two Managers in place of two who retire, viz: the Hon. J. Wiley Edmands and Frederick Davis, Esq., whose official terms expire by Constitutional limitation. In this instance, as in each preceding case, the Managers feel that the Library suffers loss by the retirement of these gentlemen, and it may become a question worthy of consideration, at a future period, after all the original Managers shall have been subjected to the Constitutional conditions, whether the institution may not be more efficiently managed by a more permanent government.

The Managers are made continually cognizant of an increasing estimate of the value of the Library to the community, and that the community is dependent upon it as a resort and as a source of intellectual activity, while they are only restrained in their enlargement of its usefulness by a considerate regard for its financial condition. The individual liberality which has founded and thus far maintained the institution has during the past year been wisely supplemented by a vote of the town, on the recommendation of a Committee appointed for that purpose, to aid the Free Libraries of the town in accordance with legislative enactment.

This Library has not as yet availed itself of that aid, but the time has now arrived when we may with propriety ask for an appropriation of a reasonable sum with which to maintain and increase its value and usefulness.

By the annexed financial statement of the Treasurer

it will be seen that our expenditures have hitherto been on the average say, four thousand eight hundred dollars per annum, and will probably be from this time forward five thousand dollars,—and that all of this has hitherto come from the donations of individuals. Our Library is therefore justified in asking from the town, or city, two thousand five hundred dollars for the ensuing year, and if by reason of the rapid increase of our population, and the increasing centralization of the public interest upon it, as being much the most complete Library in the town, the demand which has been made upon it of late for more varied reading and expensively illustrated works is to continue, it may be necessary to enlarge the private donations and thus secure a larger sum from the municipal government.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. H. JONES,

President.

[SUMMARY STATEMENT, OCTOBER 1, 1873.]

Dr. Newton Free Library in account with John C. Chaffin, Treasurer. *Cr.*

1873.				1872.	
Oct. 1.	To payments on Book Account, for Foreign Books,	$116.52		Oct. 1. By Balance on hand,	$8,996.09
	" " " " " " Books purchased here,	396.70		1873.	
	" " " " " " Books of Newton Centre Library,	184.00		Oct. 1. By Cash received for Catalogues sold,	70.50
			$ 697.22	" " " " Books and Newspapers sold,	56.45
	To payments on Salary Account,		1,775.92	" " " " Fines collected,	256.85
	" " " Lighting "		495.90	" " " from Hon. J. WILEY EDMANDS, being fourth annual instalment towards his special gift of $5,000, for the purchase of Books,	1,000.00
	" " " Fuel "		227.12		
	" " " Building " for Repairs, etc.,		148.32		
	" " " Binding "		99.65		
	" " for Covering Paper and Labor,		79.67		
	" " " Printing Third Annual Report,	93.50		" " " from Subscriptions,	430 00
	" " " Other Printing and Advertising,	96.66		" " " for Interest to October 1, 1873,	653.24
			190.16		
	" " " Newspapers and Periodicals,		239.95		
	" " " Insurance,		53.33		
	" " " Incidental Expenses, including Stationery, Postage, Expressage, etc.,		221.51		
			$4,228.75		
Oct. 1.	To Balance on hand,		7,234.38		
			$11,463.13		$11,463.13
				1873.	
				Oct. 1. By Balance on hand,	$7,234.38

Errors excepted.

NEWTON, October 1, 1873.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN, *Treasurer.*

We, the undersigned, appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts, have attended to that duty, and find the same correct and properly vouched for.

(Signed,) N. P. COBURN, FRANCIS M. JOHNSON, FRED DAVIS, } *Finance Committee.*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

To the Newton Free Library Corporation:

Gentlemen,—By the Financial Report which has been submitted it will be seen that the Receipts for the year, including balance on hand October 1st, 1872, are $11,463.13. This amount includes the *fourth* annual instalment of $1,000, received from Hon. J. Wiley Edmands; also, subscriptions amounting to $430, and it is gratifying to be able to state that several of these have been entirely voluntary and that a general interest has been manifested in the prosperity of the Institution, notwithstanding the disasters and embarrassments of the year, and it is hoped that in the year before us the subscriptions will be largely increased.

The current expenses, exclusive of the book account, have been $3,531.53, being somewhat less than those of last year, leaving a balance of $7,234.38 in the Treasury, and there are no outstanding debts against the Corporation.

It will soon become necessary to provide means for the future maintenance of this Institution, and we trust that its requirements will meet with a response commensurate with its inestimable value and usefulness.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN,

Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library:

Gentlemen, — I have the honor of presenting to you the Librarian's Annual Report for the year ending October 1st, 1873.

The demand for Books has been very good, and shows an increase over last year of 684. The whole number delivered was 41,249. In the month of March, when the delivery is always the greatest, 4,396 books were given out. The largest number delivered in one day was on November 23d, 355, and the smallest on August 14th, 34. The average delivery for the 293 days on which the Library was open, was $140\frac{7}{10}$.

The Library was closed on the usual legal holidays, and twelve days for the annual examination and cleaning. As the Library is thoroughly examined six times a year, it is thought by the Librarians to be unnecessary for the future, to close during the fall examination; a fact which will be appreciated by many who have been deprived of books, as well as inconvenienced, in the past.

Cards have been issued to 561 applicants, as follows: to inhabitants of Newton Village, 298; Newton Centre, Newton Highlands and Chestnut Hill, 74; Auburndale and the Falls, 38; West Newton, 45; North Village, 12; Newtonville, 92, and 2 from Brighton. Total number of cards issued since the opening of the Library, 3,330. Amount of fines received for the year, $256.47.

The whole number of books in the Library is found

by actual count to be 9,342. During the year 1,069 books have been added; 120 by private donation, 511 from the Newton Centre Library, and 438 by purchase. At the opening of the Library, when the first count of books was made, many volumes of duplicates — Congressional and otherwise — which were in the Library, were added in to swell the number. During the past year one hundred and ten of these volumes have been sent to another Library, and the remainder have been removed from the shelves to make room for new purchases, so that now no books are included in our number but such as are duly entered and catalogued.

Two books, one lost and one damaged, have been replaced by the borrowers; one book reported as missing last year, has been returned; four books worn out have not been replaced by the Library, and *not one book is missing*. Since the opening of the Library, July 1st, 1871, 133,378 volumes have been issued, with a loss to the Library of but two volumes, or one in every 66,689.

While this proves the excellence of the system of charging used by us, it also speaks very highly in praise of the carefulness of the borrowers in returning their books. A little more care as to the cleanliness of the covers would save much expense and labor. Not unfrequently a perfectly fresh book will be returned in such a soiled condition that no person of cleanly tastes would wish to read it until it is re-covered. It is the unwearied effort of the Assistant Librarian to keep the books in a readable condition, but in order to do that last year, 7,319 books had to be re-covered. Will our readers please remember these figures when they are tempted to lay their books on a dusty table or shelf, or to handle them with unwashen hands?

Attention is also called to the annoying practice of writing on the fly-leaves and margins of the books, the rapturous emotions or disgust of the reader,—"splendid" or "horrid," as the case may be. It would be considered a piece of impertinence to write in a book loaned us by a friend, and the fact that these books are loaned us by a *public friend* should not diminish our sense of obligation to treat them in every respect as if they were our own.

Many valuable and interesting works are included in our list of the year's accessions. For the use of lovers of Art we have Lubke's "History of Sculpture," finely illustrated, Tyrwhitt's "Christian Art and Symbolism," Pater's "History of the Renaissance," and the fourth volume of Winckleman's "History of Ancient Art," and Wey's "Rome."

For instruction in Drawing and Painting we have Cassell's "Technical Series," Kaufman's "American Painting-Book," and Sully's "Hints to Young Painters." A very fine series of copies in Animal, Landscape and Floral Drawing, and of the Human Figure will soon be added, and will be found of great worth and value to young students.

In books of Travel and Description, Seward's "Travels Round the World," Nordhoff's "California," Hazard's "Santo Domingo," Butler's "Land of the Veda," Lady Barker's "Station Life in New Zealand," Poitou's "Spain and Its People," and Murray's "Picturesque Tour of the Thames" will be found very interesting, while Beattie's "Switzerland" and Allom's "Tyrolese Scenery" are gems of beauty. Gen. Underwood has given us a fine copy of Jules Janin's "La Revolution Francaise," the sheets of which he fortunately rescued

from some paper stock at the Custom House and caused to be bound for the Library.

The great gift of the year has been the generous donation by the stockholders of the Newton Centre Library of their valuable collection of between fourteen and fifteen hundred books. They have been carefully examined and 511 have been entered and placed on our shelves. Of course many of the books were found to be duplicates of works of which it was unnecessary to have two copies in the Library, but many very valuable duplicates were added, such as, a full set of Scott's "Novels," in 27 volumes, Shakespeare's "Works," in 6 volumes, Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic," Froude's "History of the Reign of Elizabeth," an excellent copy of Boswell's "Life of Johnson," and of Plutarch's "Lives," and also of the standard English Poets.

Among books which we did not own, Grote's "History of Greece," in twelve volumes, Webster's "Complete Works," in six volumes, Modern Histories of "Maine," "New Hampshire," "Vermont," "Rhode Island," "New York" and "South Carolina," Loudon's "Encyclopædia of Plants," Youatt's and Dadd's Treatises on Horses and Cattle, various works on Agriculture, besides many others on different subjects, constitute a very valuable addition to our Library.

The generosity of the gift is more apparent when the difficulty of access to the Library by the residents of Newton Centre is considered. If some arrangement could be made at Newton Centre, and in other villages which are not connected with us by railway, whereby books could be sent back and forth to the Library by some responsible person, the usefulness of the Library

to the whole town would be greatly increased. On certain days in the week, books to be returned could be sent to some designated place, with lists of numbers from which fresh selections could be made by the Librarians, and the books so selected delivered at the homes of the borrowers.

A system similar to this would place the Library within reach of all; and by its regularity of receipt and delivery, would in a great measure do away with the *fines* which are almost inevitable to those who live at a distance.

Respectfully submitted,

HANNAH P. JAMES,

Librarian.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Library Committee have the pleasure of reporting the condition of the Library and Reading Room as wholly satisfactory.

There have been added to the Library during the year 1,069 volumes, 120 of which were donated; 511 volumes were received from the Newton Centre Library Association, and 438 volumes purchased at a cost of $513.22.

In June last your Managers received from the Newton Centre Library Association the generous offer of their Library, consisting of about fourteen hundred volumes, the only condition being, that we would pay the debts of their Association, amounting to $184.00. As the books were in very good order, and many of them valuable, their offer was accepted.

Many of the books being duplicates of those already on our shelves, five hundred and eleven volumes only, as above stated, have been placed in the Library; the remaining volumes will be disposed of, and the proceeds used to purchase other books.

At the commencement of the year the Managers placed at the disposal of the Committee $700 for the purchase of books. There has been expended for foreign books received on last year's order $116.52, and for books purchased here $396.70, which, with $184 paid for the Newton Centre Library makes the total expenditure $697.22.

As the amount allowed us was small, it was not thought by the Committee advisable to order any books

through our London agent this year, but an order is now being prepared, and we hope early in the next year to receive some attractive works from that source.

The Committee would recommend the purchase of a liberal number of the best French, German and Italian works, as the number of such on our shelves at present is very small, they are often inquired for, and if we could supply them, we think the demand would be much increased.

In the purchase of books the Committee have endeavored to keep in view the wants of our community, and have selected mostly those of an entertaining and instructive character, with some few for reference and others relating to the manufacturing and industrial interests of our people. As our means increase we hope to furnish more illustrated works and also more books of a scientific nature.

The annual examination of the Library has just been made and the books found to be in excellent condition, very few having been damaged and none lost.

The good order and quiet maintained in the Library and Reading Room during the year has been especially gratifying.

We have ever found the Librarians polite, courteous, attentive and prompt in the discharge of their duties, ever ready to impart information and always manifesting a deep interest in the prosperity of the institution. To them the Committee are indebted for many valuable suggestions, and for the assistance they have rendered them in the selection of books.

If, in the enforcement of the rules, they may have sometimes seemed too strict, we believe it has not been from a disobliging spirit, but lest from too great laxity

and want of order, the usefulness of the Library might be impaired.

More Catalogues have been purchased this year than last, but not to the extent hoped for. We think it important that all who can afford it, and are not already supplied, should obtain a copy. By so doing readers will be able to make far better selections in the quiet of their homes, than when done hurriedly at the Library.

The Reading Room has been supplied with the usual number of newspapers and periodicals at a cost of $239.95. The attendance is increasing, and a general satisfaction with its management is expressed.

For the Committee,

GEORGE C. LORD,

Chairman.

FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

NEWTON, MASS.

1874.

BOSTON:
GEORGE L. KEYES, PRINTER, 4 WILLIAMS COURT.
1874.

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

ORGANIZED 1869. INCORPORATED 1871.

MANAGERS, 1874-75.

GEORGE C. LORD,	Term expires	October,	1875.
NATHAN P. COBURN,	"	"	"	"
FRANCIS M. JOHNSON,	"	"	"	1876.
C. BOWDITCH COFFIN,	"	"	"	"
EDMUND W. CONVERSE,	"	"	"	1877.
WARREN P. TYLER,	"	"	"	"
JAMES F. EDMANDS,	"	"	"	1878.
FREDERICK JACKSON,	"	"	"	"
J. WILEY EDMANDS,	"	"	"	1879.
JOHN S. FARLOW,	"	"	"	"
WILLIAM W. KEITH,	"	"	"	"

ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 1874-75.

President.

J. WILEY EDMANDS.

Secretary and Clerk.

FREDERICK JACKSON.

Treasurer.

WARREN P. TYLER.

Committee on Library.

GEORGE C. LORD, EDMUND W. CONVERSE,
JOHN S. FARLOW, WILLIAM W. KEITH,
FREDERICK JACKSON.

Committee on Finance.

NATHAN P. COBURN, J. WILEY EDMANDS,
FRANCIS M. JOHNSON.

Committee on Building.

JAMES F. EDMANDS, WARREN P. TYLER,
C. BOWDITCH COFFIN.

Superintendent.

FREDERICK JACKSON.

Librarian.

Miss HANNAH P. JAMES.

Assistant Librarian.

Miss CAROLINE B. JACKSON.

Janitor.

ALBERT A. DEMOND.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

OCTOBER 27, 1874.

The Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Newton Free Library, was held at the Library Building, on Tuesday evening, October 27th, 1874, having been duly notified by the Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The number of members present was forty-three.

The records of the last Annual Meeting was read and approved.

The Treasurer, John C. Chaffin, Esq., made his Annual Report with a summary statement of his account for the year ending September 30th, 1874, which was accepted.

The Clerk read the Report of the Librarian, Miss Hannah P. James, and the Report of the Library Committee.

The President, Geo. H. Jones, Esq., made the Annual Report of the Board of Managers.

After reading each of the above reports it was *Voted*, To accept the same and place on file.

The meeting then proceeded to the choice of one manager for the unexpired term of the late David B. Jewett, also three managers for the term of five years, to take the place of Geo. H. Jones, John C. Chaffin and Isaac T. Burr, whose term of office has expired.

The election resulted in the choice of C. Bowditch Coffin, for the term of two years, and J. Wiley Edmands, John S. Farlow and William W. Keith, for the term of five years.

The following preamble and resolutions, submitted by A. B. Underwood, were adopted by the unanimous vote of the meeting.

PREAMBLE. The members of the Newton Free Library Association, in view of the retirement at this election, by constitutional limitation, of the three senior members of the Board of Managers,

while realizing the inadequacy of any formal vote of thanks to express our appreciation of the value of their services, desire to put upon our records some official acknowledgement of the same, and therefore—

Resolved, That by the retirement of Geo. H. Jones, John C. Chaffin and Isaac T. Burr, from the Board of Management, we are sensible that this Association and the interests entrusted to it, suffer a great and unusual loss.

Resolved, That these three gentlemen, as Trustees of the original donation, as members of the board of management for the last five years, and of its sub-committees—one as President during his whole term and as Superintendent of the Library,—another as Treasurer of the Association,—all these in every relation to the Library, by their constant fidelity to its interests, their public spirited and intelligent labors and devotion of valuable time to ensure its success, as well as by their munificent donations to its funds, have earned for themselves the lasting gratitude of this Association, and of this whole community.

On motion of William C. Bates it was *Voted*, That the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library, be requested to consider the propriety of establishing in connection with the Library, a department or museum, illustrating facts of Natural History, and to take measures to secure this result, if in their judgement the undertaking is feasible.

Adjourned.

FREDERICK JACKSON, *Clerk.*

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1874.

The Managers of the Newton Free Library have the honor to present the Fifth Annual Report.

The general success and increasing usefulness of the Library and Reading Rooms has been further developed by the year now closed, to an extent which ensures to the Institution the confidence and support of the community.

The report of the Treasurer exhibits the expenditures of the year, and the financial condition of the corporation.

The report of the Librarian presents a history of the use of the Library, which indicates increasing appreciation of its value to the community, and an extension of its privileges to the distant parts of the city.

The Committee for the purchase of books, periodicals and papers, show by the report that such additions have been made during the year as were necessary to meet the requirements of the public.

Within each year since the Library has been organized it has been the recipient of gifts of pecuniary

value indicating the interest with which its work is regarded, as well as a desire to render its usefulness perpetual.

The principal donations of the year have been received from N. D. Noyes, Esq. and C. Bowditch Coffin. Mr. Noyes' gift is peculiarly valued by reason of the fact that he has but recently become a citizen of Newton, and by this prompt recognition of the Library, gives assurance that he is mindful of the obligations which pertain to citizenship. His gift is a complete set of Niles' Register, covering the years 1811 to 1849 inclusive. It is a recognized history of the public and political events of those years, and is a valuable addition to our collection of statistical and historical works.

Mr. Coffin has also manifested an interest in the Library and evinced a desire to promote its usefulness and attractions by presenting Engravings of Horace Mann and John Quincy Adams, and Photographs of Gov. Andrew and Prof. Agassiz.

He also presented the bust of Charles Sumner, by Millmore, which all who visit the Library notice with much commendation. These gifts of Mr. Coffin's were received by the Managers with much satisfaction, and it is their desire that his example may be imitated.

It is to the young men of our city that every citizen is looking for the future support of our institutions, and every demonstration of interest is a source of satisfaction to all who are giving of labor, time and money to establish and maintain such institutions as have ever been elements of that moral force which elevates and gives stability to the general society of our New England towns and cities. And the Managers would respectfully represent to all citizens of Newton, that every act of

appreciation of our Library is a reward highly prized by them, for the interest and labor which its successful management requires, and that every gift increases its usefulness while it adds to its attractions.

The expenses of the year are in excess of previous years in amount, but if regarded in proportion to the circulation of books is not excessive.

Some special expenditures have become necessary in order that the building may be properly warmed and safe from fire. Both these points are now believed to be assured.

It will be seen by the report of the Librarian that the circulation for the past year has been 15½ per cent. more than the previous year, and 11 per cent more than either preceding year.

The fact referred to by the Librarian, as to the character of the books called for is significant of an increasing desire for a course of reading, which, while it interests the mind, elevates the taste, and is a source of knowledge and improvement.

The Reading Room is visited by constantly increasing numbers, and is highly appreciated by those who avail of its privileges. The Secretary has ascertained by actual count of three successive days that the number of different persons who visited the room and used the papers and perodicals was, Monday, Oct. 19th, 92; 20th, 94; 21st, 96; being an average of 94 persons per day, a number which may surprise those who seldom visit the place.

The sad event of the year has been the death of David Brainard Jewett, a member of the Board of Managers, an earnest friend of the Library, and a valued citizen.

The managers would be as unmindful of duty as of

privilege did they not in this report bear their testimony to the high estimation in which this deceased associate was held by them in his relation to the Library as a manager, and to the community as a citizen.

Those who knew Mr. Jewett intimately enjoyed the companionship of a christian gentleman, whose courtesy ever gave pleasure, whose kindness never ceased, whose generosity was only limited by discretion, and whose judgment gave to his council a value attested by all who sought it. Christian integrity was the foundation of his character. His habit of mind and body, supplemented by his industry, secured to him an active, successful and useful life. The goodness of his heart was best known and felt by those persons and objects which were his constant care. By his death every worthy object has lost a friend; every good cause a support; but the memory of his usefulness and virtues is a rich legacy to those who remain to continue life's work.

The future requirements of the Library will doubtless be regarded with solicitude by its friends and future managers. Of the former it counts every friend of education, good order and virtue, in Newton, while the latter will doubtless be selected from those citizens who will give time and labor to its care, with that intelligence which is bestowed on all our public enterprises.

The retiring members of the Board having been associated with the Library for a period of eight years, rejoice that the labor and responsibility which has been theirs since the conception of its existence will now pass into other hands, and that the large accession which this election will bring to the Board of fresh and vigorous memberships, will give an impetus to its growth,

progress and usefulness, and thus ensure that permanent character and support which has ever been the desire and expectation of those who have thus far been associated in its management.

The retiring members also desire to express their thanks to all with whom they have been associated in the management of the affairs of the association, for the confidence and co-operation which has ever been manifested toward them, and assure those who may now be elected as their successors, that if the same unanimity of council continues which has characterized the action of the eight years now closed, they will experience a rich reward and satisfaction for their time and labor.

The citizens of Newton have also manifested a degree of confidence and consideration, which will be cherished in their recollections, and be an incentive to those who may succeed them, to devote their best endeavors to the perpetuation of the benefits of the Newton Free Library.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By the Board of Managers.

GEO. H. JONES,

President.

[SUMMARY STATEMENT, OCTOBER 1, 1874.]

Dr. Newton Free Library in account with John C. Chaffin, Treasurer. *Cr.*

1874.				
Oct. 1.	To payments on Book Account, for Foreign Books,	$329.59		
	" " " " " " Books purchased here,	515.03		
			$	844.62
	" " " Reading-Room Account, for Newspapers and Periodicals,			258.12
	" " " Salary Account,			1,817.47
	" " " Lighting Account,			484.80
	" " " Fuel Account,			308.89
	" " " Building Account, for Repairs, Improvements, etc.			998.89
	" " " Binding Account,			143 22
	" " for Covering Paper and Labor,			62.07
	" " " Printing Fourth Annual Report,			67.00
	" " " " " Bulletins, Labels, etc.			164.10
	" " " Insurance,			106.00
	" " " Incidental Expenses, including Stationary, Postage, Express Charges, etc.			223.42
				$5.478.60
	To Balance in notes receivable,			3,685.55
				$9,164.15

1873.		
Oct. 1.	By Balance on hand,	$7,234.38
1874.		
Oct. 1.	By Cash received for Catalogues sold,	47.35
	" " " " Books, Newspaper, etc., sold,	25.46
	" " " " Fines collected,	272.83
	" " " " Subscription,	10.00
	" " " " Insurance,	118.37
	" " " from Hon. J. WILEY EDMANDS, being fifth and final annual payment towards his special gift of $5,000, for the purchase of Books,	1,000.00
	" " " for Interest to October 1st, 1874,	455.76
		$9,164.15
1874.		
Oct. 1.	By Balance in notes receivable,	$3,685.55

Errors excepted.

NEWTON, October 1st, 1874.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN, *Treasurer.*

We, the undersigned, appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts, have attended to that duty, and find the same correct and properly vouched for.

F. M. JOHNSON,
N. P. COBURN. } *Finance Committee.*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

To the Newton Free Library Corporation:

Gentlemen, — By the financial summary statement which has been submitted it will be seen that the receipts for the year, including balance of October 1st, 1873, are $9,164.15. Of this amount one thousand dollars have been received from Hon. J. Wiley Edmands, which it will be observed is the fifth and final payment towards his special gift of $5,000 for the purchase of books.

The current expenses for the year, exclusive of the book account, amounting to $844.62, have been $4,633.98, which is a considerable increase over that of last year, rendered necessary chiefly by the addition of more shelving, book-cases and tables, increased facilities for heating, and other improvements considered essential; leaving a balance in notes receivable of $3,685.55.

All indebtedness of the Corporation has been paid to October 1st, 1874.

The matter of insurance will soon require attention, as two of the policies will expire next month. The present insurance is as follows, viz:

In the Citizens Mutual Ins. Co., Brighton, $5,000. Expires Nov. 23d, 1874.

In the Traders and Mechanics Ins. Co., Lowell, $5,000. Expires Nov. 27th, 1874.

In the Merchants and Farmers Ins. Co., Worcester, $5,000. Expires July 1st, 1875.

In the New England Ins. Association, Boston, $5,000. Expires Dec. 6th, 1876.

In the Holyoke Mutual Fire Ins. Co., Salem, $5,000. Expires Feb. 1st, 1879.

In the Middlesex Mutual Fire Ins. Co., Concord, $5,000. Expires Feb. 1st, 1879.

Of the above there is on the Building and Furniture,	$20,000
On Books, - - - - - - - - -	10,000
Total amount of Insurance, - -	$30,000

In retiring from this institution, after having been identified with its interests from its earliest history, I desire to express the pleasure which all the associations in connection with it have afforded me, and my appreciation of the inestimable value it is to this community; and shall ever cherish a lively interest in its future welfare.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN C. CHAFFIN,

Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library:

Gentlemen,—I herewith present to you the Librarian's Annual Report for the year ending Oct. 1st, 1874.

It is with pleasure that I am able to report a large increase in the usefulness of the Library, as indicated by the number of books delivered during the past year, and also a marked improvement in the class of books called for.

The whole number of books issued from Oct. 1st, 1873, to Oct. 1st, 1874, was 47,642, being 6,423 volumes more than were delivered the previous year, and 4,502 in advance of any other year.

The Librarian's Report for 1871-2 says: "It has been the aim of the Library Committee to provide the most interesting and attractive works of Travel, Natural History, Art, etc., hoping thereby to elevate and cultivate the popular taste. That their efforts have in a measure been successful, the Librarians can testify, as a higher order of books is gradually finding its way into hands that once sought for nothing but what was exciting and sensational."

How successful their efforts in this direction have been, a comparison between the following tables, giving

the per centage of the different kinds of books issued, will show:

From July 1, 1870, *to Oct.* 1, 1871.		*From Oct.* 1, 1873, *to Oct.* 1, 1874.	
Fiction,	81.5 per cent.	Fiction,	71 per cent.
Poetry, Essays and Art,	4.5 "	Poetry, Essays and Art,	8.6 "
Biography,	2. "	Biography,	3.3 "
History,	3.5 "	History,	3.3 "
Travels,	4. "	Travels,	6.6 "
Magazines, Theology and Science,	3.5 "	Magazines, Theology and Science,	6.6 "
Agriculture,	1. "	Agriculture,	.6 "

The above statistics show a decrease during the last year in the circulation of Fiction of 10.5 per cent.; an increase in Travels of 2.6 per cent.; in Biography of 1.3 per cent.; in Magazines, Theology and Science of 3.1 per cent.; and in Poetry, Essays and Art of 4.1 per cent.

Thus it will be seen that while our circulation has largely increased, that—thanks to efforts made in the right direction—the demand for works of a higher order has also increased in a most gratifying manner. Much care has been taken to provide works on Art, both theoretical and practical, to supplement the instruction now given in our public schools. The drawing books promised in last year's report have been obtained and well used, and a small invoice of beautifully illustrated works on Art and Travels has been warmly welcomed and eagerly called for.

The whole number of books in the Library is 10,088. The number added during the year was 753. Of these 531 were purchased, and 222 given by individuals and by the State and General Governments. A choice selection of 119 French, German and Italian books is included in the list of purchases, and the books have

been in constant, although of course limited demand. During the year two books have been lost, two damaged by borrowers and replaced, three paid for and not replaced, and two worn out. In the coming year quite a large number will have to be withdrawn on account of old age, many of which of the more worthless sort it will be well not to replace; for we think it is abundantly proved by our figures that if the public are not supplied with the mere froth of literature as it rises, they will read books of a more substantial character.

The number of new cards issued was 621. Of these Ward one, Newton, had 284; Newtonville 103; Newton Centre, Highlands and Oak Hill 118; West Newton 30; Auburndale 35; North Village 23; Upper and Lower Falls 22; Watertown 4; Brighton and Boston 1 each. Total number of signatures 3,951.

The experiment of sending books to Newton Centre by an Agent was tried and proved quite successful. Every Friday a basket containing books with their cards, was sent to the Library, in the morning, by express, and returned at night, and from 40 to 50 books were thereby exchanged every week. If none of the numbers on the cards sent were in, as good a selection as possible was made, and it is believed general satisfaction was given. The delivery commenced the first Friday in December, and continued seven months. The Agent was then obliged to give up his office, but hopes to resume the delivery the coming winter. Another agency has been started at the Upper Falls with a delivery of about 20 books per week. In order to avoid losses on the part of the Agent hereafter, he will not be held responsible for the payment of fines on delinquent books; but whenever a fine is due, the card will be retained at the

Library until the money is sent by the person from whom it is due.

Two Bulletins containing the accessions were printed for distribution during the year, and 86 catalogues sold. Amount of fines received was $271.83. The number of books re-covered was 8213, involving a great amount of labor and expense, much of which would be rendered unnecessary if more care were taken by our readers in handling the books.

The Library was open every day throughout the year excepting Sundays, and nine and one-half other days. It was not deemed necessary to close during the annual examination and cleaning, as heretofore.

This report cannot be closed without an expression of regret by the Librarians, that the rules of the Library require that those who have been so closely identified with the working of the Library from its commencement, should be obliged by the expiration of their term of office to retire from the Board of Management.

And they would bear testimony to their warm and constant interest in the Library, and to their unfailing kindness and courtesy to themselves as Librarians.

Respectfully submitted.

HANNAH. P. JAMES,

Librarian.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Managers:

The Library Committee of the Newton Free Library, take pleasure in reporting the condition of the Library and Reading Room, as satisfactory in all respects. The utmost good order has prevailed during the year, and no complaints have been brought to our notice.

There have been added to the Library during the past year, 361 volumes purchased here at a cost of $515.03, and 51 volumes purchased in England costing $166.93, also 119 volumes of French, German and Italian books purchased abroad at an expense of $162.66.

In addition to these accessions, the Library has received gifts from various individuals amounting to 222 volumes, making the total accession during the year 753 volumes, costing $844.62.

Your Committee have added a new feature to the Library, by the purchase of a carefully selected assortment of some of the best books for general reading in French, German and Italian. They represent the most eminent writers of those countries in fiction and poetry, and are recommended to all who wish to acquire facility in reading these languages.

The rapidly increasing circulation indicated in the Librarian's report, must be met by a corresponding expenditure for new books, and your Committee estimate the sum of $1000.00 as the least that will suffice for the coming year.

Your Committee desire to make special mention of a

gift from N. D. Noyes, Esq., of 76 volumes of Niles' Weekly Register.

This valuable work comes to us complete and in excellent binding, and is replete with information, historical and otherwise, as well as a great deal of curious and interesting matter, connected with our National history for a period of over thirty years.

Your Committee have supplied the Reading Room with the usual assortment of newspapers and magazines at a cost of $258.12.

In conclusion your Committee desire to express their appreciation of the faithful attention given by the Librarian and her Assistant, to the Library work, and the cheerful zeal manifested by them at all times, in promoting its interests.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By the Library Committee,

GEORGE C. LORD,

Chairman.

SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

NEWTON, MASS.

1875.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL,
No. 39 ARCH STREET.
1875.

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY.

ORGANIZED 1869. INCORPORATED 1871.

MANAGERS, 1875-76.

FRANCIS M. JOHNSON,	Term expires	October,	1876.
C. BOWDITCH COFFIN,	"	"	"	"
EDMUND W. CONVERSE,	"	"	"	1877.
WARREN P. TYLER,	"	"	"	"
JAMES F. EDMANDS,	"	"	"	1878.
FREDERICK JACKSON,	"	"	"	"
J. WILEY EDMANDS,	"	"	"	1879.
JOHN S. FARLOW,	"	"	"	"
WILLIAM W. KEITH,	"	"	"	"
(Vacancy),	"	"	"	1880.
"	"	"	"	"

ORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 1875–76.

President.

J. WILEY EDMANDS.

Secretary and Clerk.

FREDERICK JACKSON.

Treasurer.

WARREN P. TYLER.

Committee on Library.

EDMUND W. CONVERSE, JOHN S. FARLOW,
FREDERICK JACKSON, WILLIAM W. KEITH.

Committee on Finance.

FRANCIS M. JOHNSON, J. WILEY EDMANDS.

Committee on Building.

JAMES F. EDMANDS, WARREN P. TYLER,
C. BOWDITCH COFFIN.

Superintendent.

FREDERICK JACKSON.

Librarian.

HANNAH P. JAMES.

Asst. Librarian.

CAROLINE B. JACKSON.

Janitor.

ALBERT A. DEMOND.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

NOVEMBER 3, 1875.

The Annual Meeting of the subscribers to the Newton Free Library, was called Tuesday evening, October 26th, 1875.

There not being a quorum present, the meeting adjourned to November 3d, 1875.

The adjourned meeting of the subscribers was held at the Library Building, on Wednesday evening, November 3d, 1875, having been duly notified by the Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The number of members present was twenty-seven.

The record of the last Annual Meeting was read and approved.

The Treasurer, Warren P. Tyler, Esq., read his financial statement.

The Clerk read the reports of the Librarian, Library Committee, and the report from the Board of Managers.

On motion, it was Voted, That the above reports be accepted and placed on file.

The meeting then proceeded to act on the following resolutions offered by the Board of Managers: —

Resolved, That the proposition to place the Library under the control and management of the city is approved and accepted.

Resolved, That the managers are hereby empowered to make a transfer of the franchise and property of the Newton Free Library to the City of Newton, on the city's assuming the conditions of trust of its present organization under the Act of Incorporation.

On motion of I. T. Burr, it was Voted, That the above resolutions be accepted by the subscribers.

On motion of A. B. Underwood, it was Voted, That the above vote be reconsidered, and, after some discussion, the original motion was put and carried.

On motion it was Voted, That when the meeting adjourn, it will stand adjourned to Tuesday, January 18th, 1876.

On motion it was Voted, That the thanks of the corporation be tendered to the retiring members Messrs. George C. Lord and Nathan P. Coburn, for their valuable services as Managers of the Newton Free Library.

Adjourned.

FREDERICK JACKSON, *Clerk.*

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1875.

The managers of the Newton Free Library have the honor of presenting their Annual Report for the year 1875.

The business affairs of the Library are so fully and concisely stated in the reports of those having charge of their respective departments, that nothing is needed to give a clear understanding of the year's progress, and of its present condition. The reports of the Treasurer, Librarian and Library Committee are herewith presented as part of the Report of the Managers, who are required by the By-Laws to "make a detailed report of the affairs of the Corporation."

Nothing has occurred to interrupt the regular course of executive work, and there has been no change in the internal economy of its affairs. It is, too, a satisfaction to be able to report that no complaints from without have come to the Managers, since their last Annual Report, suggesting a change in the Rules of the Library.

If a strict enforcement of the Rules deemed necessary to the general good order of the Library seems to a sensitive person harsh in some instances, it is of minor consequence, in comparison with the results of too loose a construction of them. It should be borne

in mind that there is a tendency in public libraries to a lax observance of prescribed rules, from a desire, on the part of those executing them, to avoid offence to visitors with whom they are in almost daily intercourse; and it is this attention to regulations which has given to our Library a marked pre-eminence over many others in point of good order.

The Managers are not unmindful of the obligations the Corporation is under to the Superintendent, whose services have been given without compensation. Their duties have been made comparatively light by his attention to the daily working of the Library and care of the property, and his efficiency in the conduct of its business. The satisfactory condition of the Library and the Reading-Room, and the visible signs throughout of careful supervision, suffice to render unnecessary a report from him; and one is not required by the By-Laws. No irregularities have been reported during the year.

The general good order which has been noticed in the past evinces the continued devotion of the Librarian, and Assistant Librarian, to the faithful discharge of the increased duties of their department.

The Reading-Room has lost none of its interest as an important appendage to the Library; although less attractive of public observation, because obviously of more limited compass, it is much appreciated by many who resort to it to improve the opportunity afforded (and in some instances the only opportunity which they have) of passing the hour profitably, in reading the periodicals there found. Information on general topics is here acquired, the possession of which

tends to elevate them to a higher self-respect, and more social consideration.

The acquisition of the large number of volumes which were donated by Miss Jackson is noticed in the Librarian's Report. The corporation has also received, through the generosity of Mr. William C. Bates, a valuable collection of minerals and fossils, with a descriptive catalogue. These fine specimens of Natural History may serve as a nucleus of a more extensive and complete collection to be added in the course of time. Such an accession to the Institution, when it has the means to properly provide for them, would be valuable to students, as well as interesting to visitors, and one quite appropriate to the objects of the Library. The Bates case is placed in the room upstairs, where its beautiful specimens may be examined by all.

The statistics of the Library show the most gratifying results of the wise prevision of those who joined in establishing it, and their faith in the co-operation of the public. The number of books now on its shelves is 11,003; embracing works in every department of literature, selected with much care and good judgment by the Library Committee. They have added, so far as their means would allow, those books (irrespective of duplicates) which the experience of the past year has shown to be needed to supply deficiencies and perfect the collection.

But the worth of the Library is not to be estimated solely by its extent and completeness. It is rather by the character of its books, and the use made of it.

The importance of careful selection, in view of its

bearing on the true progress of the Institution, is fully appreciated by the Managers.

The Library was intended for the general public, and was to be conducted in the interest of two classes of readers. In consulting their wants, it was stocked with the usual assortment of current literature, including of course much light reading. The reading public accepts what Dr. Johnson said, whether wisely or not, that "we must read what the world reads at the moment." In fact, the Library would fail of support if the requirements of the public for light reading had not been met.

If the reading of works of fiction excites the intellect, and begets a love of books, as it undoubtedly does, they are productive of more good than they have credit for. The acquirement of the love of reading will create a thirst for knowledge, which works of a higher character can alone satisfy.

To this end our aim has been, in the addition of new publications, to supply, in larger proportion, books of information and instruction, and those only in the department of fiction which furnish the best reading; and, through the care of the Library Committee in this respect, our collection has been much improved. We indulge the belief that a continuance of this care in selecting only the most meritorious of the works of fiction, to the exclusion of all merely sensational and pernicious reading, will eventuate in increasing the demand for more solid works in the different departments of knowledge.

It is when considering the relations of the Library to the public the Managers most fully realize their

official responsibilities. To elevate the standard of reading, and cultivate a taste in the community for books that will improve the mind, and furnish useful information, is the highest object a Library can attain.

Assuming that the books of the Library are such as are worthy of circulation, the extent to which the public makes use of it is the measure of its utility, and its utility constitutes its practical value.

Its worth to the community has ample testimony in the 57,000 deliveries made during the past year. As many of the books in circulation have each several readers, the whole number of readers supplied is probably more than 100,000.

The growth of the Library has been steady, and marked by no fitful movements of public favor. Its progress has been continuously onward, as appears in every annual report.

The number of books taken out during the year is 9,607 more than the circulation of the preceding year. Referring back to 1873, when the Institution had passed quite beyond the stage of experiment, and acquired its just reputation as a first-class Library, we find that in that year 41,249 books were given out. In 1874 they had increased to 47,642. During the past year the deliveries have amounted to 57,249, — the circulation in 1875 being exactly 16,000 more than in 1873.

In this retrospect we have sufficient evidence of the increasing appreciation of the Institution, as furnishing individuals with the books they want, and as an educational instrumentality worthy of their encouragement.

This constant expansion of circulation is referable to the correlative influences of the Library and community. While it results from the desire of an intelligent community to avail of the facilities offered by the Library, it retroactively operates to increase that desire for the refining influences of intellectual culture emanating from the Library. Its limitations are not to be found in the condition and wants of our community, but in the deficiency of funds at the disposal of the Corporation. This progressiveness is suggestive of the nearness of the time when it will be apparent that the demands of the reading public are inadequately met. The yearly additions to the Library are now not in proportion to the increase of applicants, and we shall fail in our attempts to keep abreast of the times, without a reliable provision for the necessary funds.

The large increase in circulation has been caused in part by the additional accommodations to the public, through the measures taken to supply those living remote from the Library with the means of obtaining books without inconvenience. The agencies which have been established, as detailed in the Librarian's Report, have been of much benefit and convenience to those living at a distance, and the remote wards now receive a much larger number of books, in proportion to the whole, than heretofore. The importance of extending these agencies is now demonstrated, and will demand the attention of those having charge of the Library hereafter.

It is now six years since the first Board of Managers entered upon their duties. Each successive year

has been marked by the retirement of members whose term of office had expired by constitutional limitation. The present year closes the connection of Messrs. Geo. C. Lord and N. P. Coburn with the Board of Managers; their five years' term of office and most useful service embracing nearly the whole period of the active operation of the Library. The Corporation will suffer the loss of their constant attention to its business, and their intelligence and good judgment in the direction of its affairs, and the Board will sensibly miss their wise counsel.

The year has passed without financial embarrassment, and the Corporation is free from debt, thanks to the City Government for their consideration of the Institution in making their appropriations. If the unexpended balance of 4,494 dollars is to be treated as part of the money donated specially for books, and expended in that way, means must be provided to cover the working expenses of the Library. But the necessity of considering the finance question depends upon the action of the subscribers on the proposition presented in this report.

It is known by many, that the Managers have lately had under consideration the question of reorganizing the Library. Its connection with the City Government was alluded to by the Mayor in his address to the present City Government, at their first meeting in January last. In that address, he says, "I will venture the hope that, at no distant day, this Library will pass into the hands of the city, and become *the* city Library, and the only one to be aided by the city; and when under such control, if branches are needed,

owing to our peculiar geographical condition, they can be established so as to accommodate all the inhabitants." This was the key-note of the policy of adopting the Newton Free Library by the city, and securing it as one of its municipal institutions. The sum of 5,000 dollars was granted for its use, and has been received from the city.

In this state of the case, the Managers could not, with any discretion, avoid considering the question, if they had desired to. If the city pays the expenses, it might expect, and very properly, a part in its management. How best to satisfy all parties, whether by connection through joint management, or otherwise, has engaged the earnest attention of the Managers.

The plan of changing the constitution of the Board, by giving to the city the appointment of a majority of its members, including the Mayor ex-officio, was at first favorably considered, as being, on account of its lesser interference with the present organization, the one the most likely to suit many friends who have been identified with the Library from its beginning, whose attachment to it has been so fully expressed by liberal donations of money and time. After the Committee, consisting of Messrs. Lord, Keith, and the President, to whom the subject was referred, had consulted with some of these friends, and with the three Trustees of the original "Library Land Fund," the course to be recommended to the Managers seemed plain, and they reported to the Board as follows: —

"Having fully considered the several plans suggested, and especially the proposition favored by the Board at their last meet-

ing, to add the Mayor ex-officio to the number, giving to the city the election of one-half of the Board of Managers, the Committee have finally concluded that the best course is, to surrender the Library to the city free from all conditions. They believe that its usefulness and its best interests will be fully subserved in the future in the hands of the City Government. As a City Institution it will receive that attention and care which its character and importance demand, and cannot fail to become a cherished object of pride under its new guardians. With such views, your Committee do not favor, and do not propose, any restrictions or conditions in transferring the property, and they propose the following vote: —

"*Voted*, That the proper steps be taken to surrender the Newton Free Library to the City of Newton."

The report of the Committee was accepted, every member of the Board concurring in the decision, that it was best, all things considered, to tender the Library to the city.

The Managers, moreover, consider it to be more in keeping with the official character of the recipients, more consistent with our faith in their disposition to foster it, and their wisdom and ability to manage it to the greatest advantage to the public, and more conclusive to a full appreciation of the gift, that the Library should pass into the hands of the City Government free from all conditions, restrictions or recommendations by the Library Corporation.

The same Committee was instructed to draw up a resolution to this effect, to be presented for the action of the Corporation, and they reported the following preamble and resolutions: —

"Whereas, the proposition to convey the Library to the city inconditionally on our part has, after much deliberation, received the unanimous approval of the Managers, and believing that under the

city's guardianship there will be no lack of the attention and care which it has hitherto received, and under which it has flourished, and attained an importance befitting the City Library, —

Resolved, That the proposition to place the Library under the control and management of the city is approved and accepted.

Resolved, That the Managers are hereby empowered to make a transfer of the franchise and property of the Newton Free Library to the City of Newton, on the city's assuming the conditions of trust of its present organization under the Act of Incorporation.

This report was unanimously accepted by the Board as the proposition to be submitted to the Corporation at the annual meeting.

The Library was established to benefit the public; no selfish motives actuated its founders, and no action on the part of its Managers, from its beginning to the present time, has been prompted by any purpose other than the securing, in the largest measure practicable, the object for which it was established. If the members of the Corporation adopt the proposition before them, they are acting in the direction of their original purpose, its conditions as a free Library continuing as heretofore; besides, in the judgment of the Managers, the transfer to the city is a means of extending the benefits and privileges of the Library, through a fresh impetus to its growth from increased facilities for its enlargement, from a more general appreciation of it, and from the interest which the city will take in making the Institution in all respects worthy of the pride of its inhabitants. This being the effect of the proposed measure, our affirmative action will surely be in harmony with the spirit of its formation. Desire for the public good was the inspiration of its origin,

and its name foreshadowed what it might ultimately become — Newton's Free Library.

The time to make this change is the present, when the Institution is in the full tide of success. Useful as it now is, it is, in view of its capacities, only in the bud of development; it is a plant of healthy growth, and it produces abundantly, considering our limited means for cultivation. Under the more liberal husbandry of the city, we anticipate an increased vigor of growth, and a more prolific yield of its never-failing fruit, free to all who will collect it.

In making the change proposed, we lose the fee of the property, but the Library remains; we part with none of its privileges and benefits, and we lose nothing of its value as an active agency in promoting the best interests of the community; we shall share the wealth of mind here collected, however great may be its accumulation through the larger influence and resources of city management.

The establishment and maintenance of the Library up to the present year has involved an expenditure of 65,000 dollars, contributed by its friends. We do not refer to this as bearing upon the proposition before the meeting, as it has no proper connection with a question which concerns the future rather than the past or present of the Library. We state it simply as a fact, among others, of interest to the subscribers. The city will not accept this gift from consideration of what it may have cost, but because of its distinctive character among the ruling forces of society — because of what it has shown itself capable of doing, and will continue to do, for the benefit of the public.

A Public Library has an element of strength in its peculiar character, and, when fully serving its purpose, it becomes, of itself, a silent, but effective appeal, which, sooner or later, finds response in gifts from those who are mindful of the public welfare when making final distribution of their property. We have an earnest of future endowments in the bequest of the late D. B. Jewett, Esq., of five thousand dollars, to be received in the course of a few years.

A City Library is the Institution, above all others, which every city, of any pretensions to importance, is desirous of possessing, and it is generally the last one which a young city is able to acquire.

The City of Newton, emulous of the highest rank, needs an institution like our own to enhance its reputation and importance. When the Newton Free Library "shall have passed into the hands of the city, and become *the* City Free Library," it will be prized as an object of public favor, a mark of distinction, and a sign of progress.

Respectfully submitted,

J. WILEY EDMANDS,

President.

Dr. Newton Free Library in Account with Warren P. Tyler, Treasurer, *Cr.*

1875.		
Oct. 1,	To payments on Salary Account,	$1,929 86
	" " " Book Account,	976 54
	" " " Reading-Room Account,	229 08
	" " " Binding, Printing, and Advertising Account,	246 00
	" " " Incidentals,	347 44
	" " " Express charges for carrying Books to Newton Centre, Upper Falls, Newtonville, Auburndale, and West Newton,	89 94
	" " " Building Account,	566 82
	" " " Lighting Account,	483 90
	" " " Fuel Account,	248 60
	" " " Insurance,	300 00
	" Balance in notes receivable and interest,	3,552 50
	" Cash on hand,	942 02
		$9,912 70

1874		
Oct. 1.	By Balance on hand,	$3,685 55
	Cash Received from City Treasury,	5,000 00
	Subscription from Mr. C. C. Burr,	100 00
	" " Mr. Henry Ross,	25 00
	" " Miss M. C. Jackson,	10 00
	Sale of Catalogues and Bulletins,	58 28
	" Books,	373 52
	Fines Collected,	331 76
	Dividends from Insurance,	80 00
	Interest,	217 86
	Old newspapers sold,	30 63
	One bottle of mucilage,	10
		$9,912 70
1875.		
Oct. 1.	By Balance brought forward,	$4,494 52

NEWTON, October 1, 1875. *Errors excepted.* WARREN P. TYLER, *Treasurer.*

Insurance on Building,	$19,300 00
" " Books,	10,000 00
" " Furniture,	700 00
	$30,000 00

We, the undersigned, appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts, have attended to that duty, and find the same correct and properly vouched for.

F. M. JOHNSON,
N. P. COBURN, } *Finance Committee.*

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Managers of the Newton Free Library: —

GENTLEMEN, — I herewith present to you the Annual Report of the Librarian, for the year ending October 1st, 1875.

The Library was open for delivery every day, excepting Sundays and holidays, and 57,249 books were delivered, — an increase over last year of 9,607.

During the winter an agency was established at Newton Upper Falls. The borrowers paid the agent a small sum for his trouble, and the books were carried back and forth once a week. In April the Library undertook the charge of this agency, and also established additional agencies at Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, and Auburndale. Since that time books have been received from and returned to those places twice a week, free of charge to the borrowers.

In August similar agencies were established at West Newton and Newtonville. The advantages of the Library are thus brought within the reach of a large portion of the community, and many have availed themselves of the privilege. The whole number of books delivered through the agencies thus far is 8,335, and the present average weekly circulation is 391.

The whole number of cards issued is 4,954. Whole number during the year was 999, or 378 more than last year, owing to the fresh demand caused by the agencies. Of these, 282 were delivered to residents of Newton, and the remaining 717 as follows: — Newtonville, 138; West Newton, 32; Auburndale, 188; Newton Centre, 141; Newton Upper Falls, 72; Newton Highlands, 108; Newton Lower Falls, 5; North Village, 26. To Watertown 4, and 1 each to Boston, Allston and Needham.

A bulletin was issued August 1st, containing all accessions of the previous year, and also a complete list of the foreign books in the Library.

A careful examination of the bulletin will show that the standard of the Library has been well maintained, and works of value in many departments of literature have been added.

It is our aim to supply, as far as possible, all demands for useful reading, so that the seeker after knowledge may find on our shelves works of the most varied information; and as deficiencies in our collection are brought to our notice the needed works are promptly supplied. As ever, the most difficult works to select judiciously are those of fiction. Great care is taken to purchase those only which are pure and healthy in tone. Of course it is inevitable that mistakes in judgment will occur, but we hope that few of them will be found on our list. We feel that the Library should elevate the tastes of the community, even at the risk of lowering the rate of delivery, rather than supply a demand for light and sensational reading, or assist in fostering a love of such reading

in the young. Quite a number of the most popular books in the Library are of the sensational class; they are worn almost to tatters by constant handling, but we doubt much the expediency of duplicating those books, as we believe that if they are not to be had, other and better books will be taken.

The whole number of books added during the year was 914. Of these 302 were given and 612 purchased.

A very valuable gift of 228 volumes of the best French authors was presented by Miss C. B. Jackson, the Assistant Librarian, making our collection of French works a remarkably good one in proportion to the size of the Library.

But one book has been lost, and five books have been lost or damaged by borrowers and paid for, or replaced. The whole number of books in the Library is 11,003. The number of books recovered was 10,355, and $331.76 was received for fines.

In conclusion, we would say that we are daily hearing words of warm commendation of the Library from many of our most intelligent citizens, and we are confident that its inestimable value as a means of culture and refinement is being felt more and more in this community.

Respectfully submitted,

HANNAH P. JAMES,

Librarian.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Managers: —

The Library Committee beg leave to present a few statistics, showing the number and value of the books purchased by them during the past year, as well as the expense incurred in the maintenance of the Reading-Room.

There have been added to the Library during the year 914 volumes, of which 567 were purchased here, at an expense of $779.10, and 45 volumes in England, costing $197.44, making the total purchase of 612 volumes, at the cost of $976.54. In addition to these accessions, the Library has received donations from several persons, amounting to 302 volumes.

We are indebted to our Assistant Librarian for the gift of 228 volumes, comprised wholly of valuable works in the French language, many of which are translations from the best works of English fiction. This addition to our foreign library gives it an importance and completeness that your Committee did not expect it to reach for some years to come, and enables us to meet any probable demand for that class of reading. Early in the year it was manifest, by the crowded condition of some of the shelves, and the consequent displacement of several hundred vol-

umes from their proper places, that additional alcoves would have to be provided, and on our recommendation the Building Committee furnished three new alcoves, and some shelving, sufficient in all to accommodate 2,800 volumes.

The large increase in the circulation since the month of January, caused in part by the establishment of agencies in various parts of the city, obliged your Committee to make an unusual expenditure, not only for new books, but for duplicates of the most popular works of fiction, in order to meet in some measure the persistent demand for that class of reading.

Your Committee, in their last Annual Report, stated that the expenditure for books for the coming year would require at least $1,000. The statement given above shows that nearly that sum has been expended, and it is hardly probable that the needs of the Library in future years can be properly supplied at less expense.

The Reading-Room has been kept supplied with a good assortment of periodicals, consisting of 20 daily and 14 weekly newspapers, and 22 monthly magazines, at an expense of $229.08. There is good reason to believe that the number of persons frequenting this room has largely increased during the last year. The magazines are bound semi-annually, and form an important addition to the Library shelves.

Your Committee wish to express their approval of the attention and care given by the Librarian and her Assistant to their several duties, and also their appreciation of the success with which they met the

increasing demand on their time and strength, resulting from so large a circulation during the spring and summer months.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE C. LORD,
EDMUND W. CONVERSE,
JOHN S. FARLOW,
WILLIAM W. KEITH,
FREDERICK JACKSON,
Library Committee.

RESIDENT SUBSCRIBERS.

Allen, George

Bacon, B. Franklin
Bacon, Joseph W.
Bailey, James W.
Barker, Hiram E.
Barnes, Francis G.
Bassett, Henry D.
Bates, Henry M.
Bates, William C.
Benyon, Frederick A.
Benson, Abner I.
Billings, Charles E.
Billings, Edward T.
Boise, Frank A.
Brackett, Albert
Brackett, Gilman
Brackett, W. Henry
Bray, Mellen
Brazer, William S.
Bridges, George E.
Bridgman, Erastus S.
Buckingham, John A.
Bullens, George S.
Burr, Charles C.
Burr, Isaac T.

Carleton, George J.
Chaffin, Edwin
Chaffin, John C.
Claflin, Henry
Claflin, William
Cobb, Henry E.
Coburn, Nathan P.
Coffin, C. Bowditch
Coffin, Howard B.
Coffin, J. Coolidge
Coffin, Langdon
Coffin, Lewis E.
Colburn, George E.
Colby, Gardner
Cole, Mrs. Andrew
Cole, Henry P.
Collins, Edward J.
Converse, Edmund W.
Coombs, Theophilus C.
Cousens, Horace
Cousens, Joseph E.
Crafts, Amasa
Cutting, Francis L.

Dana, Luther H.
Daniels, George
Davenport, William E.
Davis, Frederick
Dearborn, Charles E.
Decker, Samuel E.
Dewey, Daniel

Eager, Penuel B.
Earle, Edward B.

Edmands, A. Lawrence
Edmands, Frank
Edmands, Horace
Edmands, James
Edmands, James F.
Edmands, J. Wiley
Edmands, William O.
Eldridge, Mrs. E. H.
Ellis, Edward A.
Ellis, Lysander A.
Ellis, Stephen
Ellis, Warren
Ellison, William P.
Emerson, Darius R.
Emerson, Richard V. C.
Evans, John O.

Farlow, John S.
Farrar, J. C.
Field, Henry M.
Fowle, Edwin M.
French, James
French, James W.
Frost, Charles B.
Fuller, Henry
Fuller, James B.
Furber, Daniel L.

Gardner, George L.
Gay, Charles M.
Gay, Edwin W.
Gilman, Gorham D.
Gilman, John A.
Goddard, Mrs. Mary T.
Goodrich, John B.
Graves, Chester H.
Gunderson, Joseph G.

Hamlin, Francis E.
Hardon, Henry C.
Harrington, Charles C.
Harwood, George S.
Hatch, Isaac A.
Hayden, Henry C.
Henry, John Q.
Hill, James W.
Hills, Joel H.
Hitchcock, David K.
Holbrook, Charles S.
Holden, Joel M.
Holman, Edwin
Holman, Lothair S.
Holmes, Stephen
Holmes, S. Wells
Hovey, Alvah
Hutchins, Ezra C.
Hyde, George
Hyde, Horatio N.
Hyde, Hosea
Hyde, James F. C.

Jackson, Frederick
Jackson, Samuel M.
Jenison, Joshua
Jepson, Henry C.
Johnson, Francis M.
Johonnot, William H.
Jones, George B.
Jones, George H.
Jones, Peter C.

Keith, William W.

Kidder, Isaac L.
Kimball, A. H.
Kimball, George F.
Kingsbury, Benjamin W.

Lancaster, Charles B.
Lane, George
Latta, John G.
Leavitt, William P.
Lemon, Henry
Leonard, George, Jr.
Lilly, Alonzo
Lilly, Channing
Lincoln, Heman
Livermore, George F.
Lord, Charles H.
Lord, George C.
Lord, Robert W.
Loring, George H.
Lowe, Charles H.
Lummus, Charles O.

Macomber, A. Judson
Mandell, Thaddeus S.
March, Andrew S.
Morse, Lyman
Morse, Samuel W.
Morton, William
Murdock, Francis

Newell, Charles
Newell, James S.
Nickerson, R. A.
Nickerson, Theodore
Nickerson, Thomas
Noyes, Horatio S.
Noyes, Nathan D.
Nutting, George S.

Page, Augustus
Park, William H.
Parsons, William
Peabody, I. Newton
Pingree, Daniel F.
Pingree, Thomas S.
Poole, Seth B.
Pope, Albert A.
Potter, John Cheney
Potter, J. Sturgis
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